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LD1507124888 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati urged the UN Security Council to condemn the United States for shooting down the Iranian Airbus, IRNA reported.

Velayati called the act a "clear illustration" of U.S. policymakers' "moral bankruptcy" and described the official U.S. version of events as "deliberate fabrication."

Anything less than condemnation by the UN Security Council would be a "further evasion of responsibility" for international peace and security that "cannot be forgiven," Velayati stated.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops have established "new defensive positions" around Hajj 'Umran on the northwestern front, IRNA reported, adding the "evacuation" was carried out as part of a "better war strategy."

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA said Iraqi Army units have "settled in" "defensive positions" in the area.

Iranian planes "heavily bombed" Iraqi troop concentrations and equipment in the Hajj 'Umran and Mehran areas 15 July, Tehran radio reported.

IRNA claimed that Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs containing mustard gas on a Marivan village 13 July.

An Iraqi presidential decree named Brigadier General Husayn Kamil Hasan minister of industry and military industry and industrialization, Voice of the Masses radio reported.

A Revolutionary Command Council decree declared the merger of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Military Industries Organization to create the new ministry, the radio added.

Greek Ship Attack

An unidentified man "with an Arab accent" telephoned an Italian newspaper and said the Abu Nidal organization was not involved "in any way" with the Greek ship attack, Athens radio reported. The caller alleged that two persons wanted in connection with the attack are in Italy, the radio added.

Israeli Occupied Territories

Jewish settlers "ran wild" in a "riot" 13 July after gathering in Qalqilyah to protest a stonethrowing incident in which a 12-year-old boy was injured, Jerusalem radio said.

Nabulus residents rioted after two youths died of injuries sustained earlier in clashes with troops, according to Palestinian sources cited by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Officials are considering "abolishing" civilian administration in the occupied territories and instituting military administration, 'AL HAMISHMAR disclosed.

Afghanistan

"Extremists" fired more than 20 rockets at Kabul 15 July, killing 20 persons, TASS reported.

Rebels captured five Soviet soldiers in a 13 July ambush on a "withdrawing column" on the Qandahar-kabul road, according to Afghan Islamic sources cited by AFP.

The Afghan Army recently "crushed" "extremist groups" in Vardak, Qandahar, and Samagan Provinces and killed or arrested their "ringleaders," Kabul radio stated.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Denies PLO Involvement in Ship Attack

JN1407172688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The official PLO spokesman has stated the following:

The PLO has categorically denied any involvement whatsoever in the terrorist operation. The PLO has also denied any connection by any PLO faction with these operations referred to by a spurious statement in which the name of martyr Khalil al-Wazir was tendentiously used.

First—As the PLO vigorously denounces this, it stresses its firm condemnation of these terrorist operations and any terrorist targeted at innocent civilians anyplace in the world.

Second—The PLO considers these spurious attempts as originating from Israeli intelligence, its agents, and allies in an attempt to discredit the just struggle of the Palestinian people and to cover up the mass murders committed against our people in the occupied land by Israeli occupation forces.

Third—Doubtlessly everyone knows the sponsors of these terrorist operations.

Fourth—The PLO and the Palestinian people look on Greece and its poeple as faithful friends of their just struggle. Therefore, Israeli intelligence is making desperate attempts to hurt the existing close ties between the PLO and Greece; hence this falsified statement.

The PLO declares its support for the Greek people and friendly Greek Government and its readiness to help uncover the real culprits.

'Arafat Attacks Al-Asad's 'Traitorous Record'

JN1507081888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—RCC member Sa'dun Shakir has affirmed that Palestine lives in the conscience and mind of President Saddam Husayn and in the hearts of all Iraqis who have been fighting the powers of expansionism and oppression for 8 years.

Addressing a popular rally held by the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] in condemnation of the killing of Iraqi prisoners and in solidarity with the uprising, he added that the war against Iraq is a war against Arabism and the fateful issues, headed by the Palestine question. Iraq and Palestine are symbols of the Arab nation's awakening and resurgence. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat delivered a speech in which he praised the ALF, which has firmly defended the independence of the Palestinian decision and the PLO.

'Arafat affirmed that the successive Iraqi victories and the continuation of the uprising confirm that the Arab nation is approaching the realization of its goals through a heroic struggle.

'Arafat also condemned the treasonous stands of Hafiz al-Asad's regime and said: The Zionists who speak Arabic are trying to finish the job of anihilating the Palestinian camps and killing women, children, and the elderly—a job left unifinished by Sharon. This is something that is being executied according to a criminal plan agreed on with the Zionists and their allies.

He added that this is yet another disgrace added to Hafiz al-Asad's traitorous record.

Yasir 'Arafat said: They thought the Sabra and Shatila massacres might subjugate the Palestinian revolution because they wanted to strike at the PLO's infrastructure.

He added: If Sabra and Shatila are the Syrian regime's path to the Golan, then I am all for the fall of Sabra and Shatila.

'Arafat stressed that some weak-spirited people thought that Basra would fall. Others hoped the uprising would be quelled, but Saddam Husayn's soldiers are achieving successive victories in defense of the Arab nation's honor and dignity.

The heroic Palestinian revolution combines with the Iraqi heroic deeds to confirm the unity of struggle from Jerusalem to Baghdad and from Gaza to Basra. The traitors are bound to fall into the trashcan of history and the banners of victory shall soon flutter high. [passage omitted]

'Source' Explains PLO Stand on Peace Talks

JN1307192388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] An official Palestinian source has stated the following:

Press agencies have reported the statement made by the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to THE JERUSALEM POST in which he claimed the PLO recently proposed through Romania the initiation of direct negotiations with Israel to find an interim settlement in the occupied territory similar to the Camp David accords.

The PLO stand is known to the entire world and to Romania where brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held talks with Romanian President Ceausescu in which several Palestinian leaders participated.

The Camp David accords are rejected by the PLO and cannot serve as a basis for settling the conflict. The PLO has declared on numerous occasions that a just settlement must be achieved within the framework of an effective international conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict in the region including the PLO participate on an equal footing and with the same rights as other parties.

The PLO has declared that the objective of such a conference is to establish the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and their right to establish an independent state on their national Palestinian soil.

In accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers, the PLO has shown a willingness to accept a short transitional period during which the United Nations would supervise the occupied Palestinian territory to enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to free self-determination under the UN flag as a prelude to establishing their independent state.

The PLO seeks to establish a just peace in accordance with PNC and Arab summit resolutions. It has declared it will resist occupation and will continue to resist it and will continue with our people's blessed uprising until the evacuation of the Israeli occupation forces from our occupied land.

PLO Radio on Syrian Plan To Attack Sidon Camps

JN1307184988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Well-informed sources confirm that the Syrian regime will disrupt the situation in the Sidon area, affecting the Palestinian camps there, in the next 2 weeks to complete what its forces, its intelligence elements, and the agent tools which are affiliated with them have started in Beirut over the past 10 days.

The well-informed sources said that the Syrian intelligence organs have instructed the PFLP-GC, which is led by the so-called Ahmad Jibril, to withdraw its fighters from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp 3 days before the intended disruption takes place.

The sources added that the Syrian command gave specific instructions to its forces in the 'Anjar and Beirut areas to provide the necessary assistance and facilities to the groups which will ignite the state of affairs during the next 2 weeks.

Confirmed reports say the Syrian command had informed its forces in Lebanon that Syrian tank reinforcements will begin to arrive in the 'Alman area as of 10 July.

Reliable sources also confirm that the U.S. Administration has given the Syrian regime the green light to begin implementation of the second part of the conspiracy seeking to liquidate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The sources added that during enemy war minister Rabin's Washington visit, an agreement was reached with the U.S. Administration that Israel will not interfere with the Syrian forces in their task in southern Lebanon even if the Syrian forces cross the well-known red lines.

Algiers VOP on Situation in South Lebanon

LD1307214588 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Brothers: That revolutionary regime, alleged to be on the side of the Arab nation in the Palestinian camps in Beirut, will undoubtedly remain in the focus of the Palestinians' attention so the situation does not extend to Sidon and its camps and so we will toll the bells for the Arabs and the world to warn them that the liquidation of the Palestinians is not carried out by the hands of Zionists alone, but could also be carried out by a hand claiming to be Arab, pan-Arab, revolutionary, or progressive.

Perhaps we do not need do anything more than remind those who follow political developments and understand what happens behind, inside, over, and under the scenes, that this regime, which claims to be an Arab one, is the regime controlling all the events on the front of confrontation with the Palestinian camps.

This regime, because of the weakness of those on the front, and because of the need for speed in implementing the U.S. and Zionist requirements, was even forced to send forward its artillery and tank and missile battalions to directly shell the Palestinian camps.

Many Arab leaders tried to talk to the head of this progressive revolutionary regime about stopping the war against the camps. He only had one reply, which he has not changed since 1976: This is a Palestinian action in which he does not interfere.

This is beautiful, just, and honest logic if it is applied always in all matters, but if it is only restricted to Palestinian blood and does not apply to the freedom of the Palestinian fedayeen in fighting the Zionist entity and the spreading of its land across all Arab borders, then the matter becomes (?baffling).

However, we are not trying to emphasize what is already confirmed about the treachery of this regime against the Palestinian cause and struggle, as this is now superfluous.

What we can do here is condemn as much as we intend to warn against what we see coming of a new conspiratorial round by this regime against the camps in south Lebanon.

The regime started to prepare for this round by statements by a number of hireling forces, which are greatly attached to the regime, as the head of the regime knows, all the Arab politicians know, and all the Arab and foreign journalists know, except the owners and writers of the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS, who are commissioned to interpret matters according to the wishes of this regime and the wishes of those who control it.

These statements attack Palestinian blood, but they are meaningless nonsense. The hireling forces are not allowed to return to Lebanon, so how are they going to reach Sidon or south Lebanon? How is the army of the regime going to reach these areas and how is it going to cross the agreed red areas, which constitute a belt forbidden to this regime?

We say again we are not going to emphasize what is confirmed. We mean to toll the bells loudly, especially as Washington no longer seems forced to hide the roles allocated to its agents and the news leaking from Washington tells about the price charged by this progressive pan-Arab regime.

The regime received U.S. equipment for repairing the broken down power stations, as well as cargoes of wheat and other foodstuffs which improved the exchange rate of the lira against the dollar.

We welcomed the recent Arab summit in Algiers and its resolutions supporting the uprising, in spite of the fact no practical Arab program was drawn up for this.

However, we said such a program will undoubtedly come later, but this regime turned the table on all those who participated in the Arab summit. Yes, it turned the table on all of them.

Therefore, is there an escape from saying the Arabs are called upon to exert practical pressure on this regime to stop its practices for our sake, for the sake of our blood, for the sake of the glorious Palestinian uprising, and for the sake of Arabs, all Arabs?

Algeria

Further on Maghreb Committee Meeting in Algiers

Session Ends, Statement Issued

LD1407194888 Algiers APS in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, 14 Jul (APS)—The Maghreb Committee set up by the 10 June Algiers summit has concluded its work. A statement was issued which reads:

In carrying out the directives of the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries who met in Algiers on 10 June 1988, the Maghreb Committee convened in Algiers on 13 and 14 July 1988.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of trust and in a spirit of fraternity and responsibility. The participants held detailed and frank discussions on a number of topics and questions relating to the building of the unified Arab Maghreb.

The meeting produced practical decisions pertaining to the fields of organization, structure, education, culture, economics, finance, and regional security, in addition to social and humanitarian issues.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided to set up a number of subcommittees with the task of preparing the drafts of the various projects which will be submitted to the Maghreb Committee at its 24 October meeting in Rabat.

Ibrahimi Holds Talks With Morocco's Filali

LD1407230288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] A Morrocan-Algerian working session was held today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Driss Basri, minister of the interior and information; and Abbes Kaissi, secretary general of the Moroccan Government.

The talks began with a restricted working session, and then were enlarged to include members of the two delegations. On this occasion, the two sides reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation, ways of developing it, and the Palestinian situation. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Soviet Envoy Received

Algiers, 12 July (APS)—The Minister of Higher Teaching Boubaker Belcaid received Monday here the ambassador of Soviet Union to Algiers, Vasiliy Nikolayevich Taratutu. Talks dealt with cooperation between the two countries in the field of higher teaching notably higher technology equipment and laboratories of several higher teaching institutes. Issues related to the post-[word indistinct] training for Algerian higher teachers in the field of sciences and technology and the situation of the Soviet teachers in Algeria were cited. [Text] */LD1507010588 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 12 Jul 88 LD/*

Egypt

Mubarak, Husayn Discuss Abu Sharif Document

JN1307195388 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jul 88 p 22

[Text] Cairo, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned that President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan agreed during their latest Cairo talks to intensify contacts with the U.S. Administration to urge it to hold a direct dialogue with the PLO, particularly after the issuance of the Bassam Abu Sharif Document.

Reports which have reached the two leaders confirmed that the U.S. Administration welcomed this document.

Political sources told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that President Mubarak and King Husayn discussed extensively the Abu Sharif document. The two leaders considered it to be an important document reflecting Palestinian moderation and understanding of the current regional and international variables.

These variables dictate that a settlement should be reached through negotiations within the framework of an acceptable international conference.

These sources added that Cairo, for its part, will use diplomatic channels to hold contacts with Israel on the principles contained in the Abu Sharif document and the possibility of seeing Israel interact with this document.

Senegalese President Sends Message to Mubarak

NC1407112388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf today. The message was delivered to Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, during a meeting he had today with Chams Eddine Ndoye, Senegalese ambassador to Cairo.

Military Cooperation Protocol Signed With Sudan

NC1407153688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Bilbays, 14 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and Sudan today signed a protocol for military cooperation at the Air Force Academy in Bilbays. Field Marshal Muhammad

'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, signed for Egypt, and Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil for Sudan.

In a statement following the ceremony, Gen Khalil said that Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation is not governed by specific agreements, adding:

Today's agreement is just a document legalizing an existing fact between our countries, since there must be a program for action and performance. The Sudanese official pointed out that the protocol provides for an increased exchange of expertise and assistance between Egypt and Sudan, stressing that Egypt has never shirked in extending expertise to Sudanese troops and Armed Forces during the history of bilateral relations.

Gen Khalil added that according to this protocol the Sudanese Armed Forces will benefit from Egypt's extensive expertise, which is highly acclaimed by everyone, in upgrading efficiency and performance.

The Sudanese minister said that today's protocol is different from that expected to be signed during the visit to Egypt by the Sudanese chief of staff, which will begin on Saturday.

The anticipated protocol, he said, will deal with the dispatch of Egyptian instructors and technicians to Sudan. The invitation was accepted, and the date will be determined later, he said.

Regarding Egypt's military assistance to Sudan, the Sudanese official affirmed that Egypt has never failed to respond to Sudan's requests in this respect.

Answering another question, the Sudanese defense minister said that the Sudanese Armed Forces have brought full stability to western Sudan, particularly in Darfur, noting that all the necessary measures have been taken to restore stability in this province.

Nile Waters Committee Concludes Cairo Meetings

NC1407151488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Members of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese permanent technical committee for the Nile waters concluded their meetings today.

Eng 'Isam Radi, minister of public works and water resources, led the Egyptian side, while Eng Mahmud Bashir Jamma', Sudanese minister of irrigation and water resources, led the Sudanese side.

The meeting addressed the scope of cooperation between the two countries and among the other nations of the Nile Valley to optimize use of the Nile waters and develop Nile resources for their collective interest.

The two ministers agreed on the importance of anticipating the water supply of the various sources of the Nile and updating techniques employed for that purpose to make optimal use of these supplies.

The two officials discussed the progress of projects aimed at increasing the Nile's supply of water in the upper sources and in the Gonglei canal project. They agreed to bolster cooperation between the irrigation ministries of both countries and to exchange expertise and promote communication between technicians of both ministries.

They also agreed to promote projects approved by the prime ministers of both countries during their recent meeting in Khartoum, such as the groundwater project along the Al-Arba'in road linking western Sudan with Aswan and the wheat-farming project in Sudan's northern directorate. [passage omitted]

Irrigation Minister Departs

NC1507085488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Eng Mahmud Bashir Jamma', Sudanese minister of irrigation and water resources, left Cairo for Khartoum this morning after a 1-week official visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique, Protocol Signed With Burundi

NC1407145588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Egypt and Burundi have announced their support for the national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to self-determination.

They expressed the conviction that a just and lasting peace will prevail in this region only if it is based on respect for these rights and when Israel returns all the territories it has occupied since June 1967.

The two countries asserted that the convocation of an international peace conference represents the best approach to reaching a just and peaceful settlement of the problem.

This was noted in a joint communique signed today by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Cyprien Nbonimpa, Burundian foreign minister.

The two sides commended the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and condemned Israeli practices against Palestinians.

The two sides underlined the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Egypt and Burundi also condemned the policy of racial discrimination practiced by the Pretoria regime and called on the international community to impose binding sanctions on that regime to force it implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 regarding Namibia's independence. They also expressed support for efforts to achieve Chadian independence.

The two countries expressed concern over the issue of the African foreign debt, asserting their support for an international conference before the end of 1989 to resolve this issue.

Egypt and Burundi expressed deep concern over the issue of dumping industrial and nuclear waste in African countries. They also underlined the need for regional cooperation among Nile Valley countries.

They also stressed the need for African-Arab cooperation and reiterated their commitment to support the Nonaligned Movement. They welcomed the rapprochement between the two superpowers.

Regarding bilateral relations, Egypt and Burundi asserted their governments' desire to make every possible effort to intensify and verify cooperation in various fields.

The two ministers signed a cooperation agreement providing for training Burundian workers in Egyptian factories and institutions and sending Egyptian experts to Burundi to train and qualify local workers there.

Ghali Welcomes Results of Quadripartite Talks

NC1407152388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt has closely observed the quadripartite talks in New York among Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States on the issue of the African south and that it welcomes their agreement on the basis of negotiations and their adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

Egypt is pleased to congratulate the parties concerned on these results and hopes this positive atmosphere will prevail until the desired goals of Namibian independence and stability in southern Africa are realized, Dr Ghali added. [passage omitted]

Libya

Armed Lebanese Sneaks Into Bonn People's Bureau

LD1407185388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Bonn, 14 July (JANA)—This morning an armed person who claimed to be of Lebanese origin sneaked into the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Bonn, threatened to use arms, and demanded to be transported out of the FRG.

The Libyan Arab People's Bureau officially requested the relevant German authorities to remove the person from the building.

It is not improbable that he may have been prompted by some quarters to drag the name of the Great Jamahiriyah into matters with which it is not concerned, which is compatible with the imperialist voices hostile to the Libyan Arab people aiming at confusing the international understanding of the foreign policy of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Intruder Overpowered

LD1407210888 Hamburg DPA in German 1953 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Bonn (DPA)—An armed Arab who forced his way into the Libyan Embassy in Bonn this morning was overpowered by German police this evening after more than 11 hours.

The man, who is about 25, was not injured but was taken away in an ambulance. It is possible that the food and drink he received from the police during the day contained sedatives. [passage omitted]

Al-Humaydi Assesses Maghreb Committee Talks

LD1407224688 Tripoli JANA in English 1637 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, Shahr Nasser [July] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi has stressed that the meetings of quintuple Maghreb Committee for the laying out of the practical and executive bases for the Great Arab Maghreb come to implement the resolutions of the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries.

These leaders met following the emergency Arab summit held in Algiers.

He adds that the meeting of the above committee will lay down the foundations for bringing about steps achieving the unionist action.

Commenting to Arab and international news agency correspondents concering the sessions of this committee, Major al-Humaydi says that all the quarters insist on the necessity of achieving this unity for its usefulness and effect for building Arab Maghreb.

He reaffirms that regionalism and disintegration are worthless at this time.

We, he continues, in the Great Arab Maghreb are taking the correct historic road congruent with the peoples of this region and their struggle and fight for integrity, freedom and independence.

He stresses that Great Al-Jamahiriyah is for the unity of Arab Maghreb, without this unity, this region will remain intact.

It is a status of disintegration.

He asserts that our current action is, in actual fact, on a part of the Arab homeland. But, it means the beginning of the Arab nation unity.

Should we undertake this action today and reach a result, surely, this work will be a great thing because it strengthens the Arab nation enabling it to bring closer the day of unity.

He concludes that if we succeed in achieving this action with Allah's help, we will be realizing the aspiration and hopes of the people of the region. Unity, he asserts, is regarded as the real fight which should erupt in the Arab land because it represents the foundation and strength.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Sends Message

LD1407231388 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has received Dr ('Ali al-Hudayfi), Iraqi charge d'affaires to the Great Jamahiriyah, who handed him a written message from Brother Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq.

Briefs

New Guinean Envoy

Tripoli, Shahk Nasser [July] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau received the credentials of "Creft Kor ıa" [name as received] the new ambassador of Gui a-Conakry to Great Jamahiriyah. [Excerpt] [*LD1507 3588 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 14 Jul 88*]

Sudan

Anya Nya II Official Views SPLA 'Hypocrisy'

EA1407124988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Brothers and sisters; sons and daughters of the south; all the citizens of Sudan, north and south, east and west:

Muhammad Chuol [Anya Nya II information secretary] greets you and all the fighters in the beloved south of our land. [passage omitted]

Naturally, everybody will have heard yesterday's statement by John Garang [SPLA leader] on the problem of Sudan and his liberation of Sudan [words indistinct]. We say that all this talk of his is useless.

Why? Because he did not order his forces to cease their fire against their fellow-countrymen. He did not even specify any steps toward negotiations. Rather, he listed all the problems and blamed them on a few people, as if democratic Sudan were the personal possession of these people.

We say that the Sudan problem is not a problem of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, or of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, or Hasan al-Turabi, or the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, or the other parties.

Rather, this problem is a problem for all Sudanese of different inclinations, regardless of whether they are trade unionists, farmers, students, workers, or any other group of the Sudanese people.

Therefore, any continuation of unrestricted warfare will be regarded as an encroachment on the interests of all Sudanese people. Who is harmed by this war?

Is it the people whom John Garang mentioned or is it the poor people who are in the forests? At one time he said that the war in Sudan was against Numayri. But Numayri has gone.

Later he said that he did not want to give up arms and did not want to make peace. He said that the Military Council was an extension of Numayri. As he said, he continued the war against the Military Council.

The Military Council passed away, and democracy and democratic government which he even talked about yesterday, took its place. He said these people had formed a civilian dictatorship.

I would like to ask the following: What have the countrymen in the south done that they should be displaced?

What have the people in Darfur, whom John Garang talks about, done [words indistinct] that they should suffer robbery and destruction? What have the people of Blue Nile, South Kordofan, or various other operational areas done to deserve killing, displacement, highway robbery, plunder of property, and rape of women?

We say that these deeds cannot be the deeds of a genuine Sudanese. This movement cannot be called a liberation movement as long as it kills and displaces Sudanese citizens.

We may ask, indeed all the people may ask: Since they are fighting our brothers in the Armed Forces and Anya Nya II, are these forces, the Armed Forces and Anya Nya II, foreign forces or are they Sudanese? Are these forces [word indistinct] of ours alien or Sudanese?

The answer to the question is very clear. It does not need any explanation. We inform all our countrymen in Sudan that the SPLA movement has a racialist element. It is a fundamentally bloody movement that owes allegiance to communist ideas. It wants all Sudanese to be communists.

On this point, ask with all frankness: What is the meaning of communism? What has communism to do with the Sudanese people? Can the Sudanese people be communists?

This is the question that John Garang should ask his masters. They tell him to wage war so that the people will become communists. If communism is a question of ideas to be promoted peacefully, we say there is a communist party inside Sudan.

If communism is to be achieved through force of arms, the subjugation of countrymen, their displacement, and the closure of schools, this communism remains an ideology without ideas. This means that it is something which they bring to us from outside and which they want to impose by force. We will resist this plot.

There is a kind of communism which talks about backward areas, about toilers, herdsmen, farmers, livestock owners, and owners of [word indistinct]. What has the SPLA movement brought us? Did it build schools? Did it construct roads? Did it build factories? The answer is no to all these questions. There is nothing.

Let us look at the harm done by the SPLA in these areas. The harm done by the SPLA is very great. First, it has killed countrymen. Second, it has plundered their property. Third, it has destroyed all schools, even churches and mosques. I do not think these are the acts of a person who wishes to live as a fellow-citizen with the Sudanese people.

For this reason we want to talk to our brothers in the SPLA. Today and tomorrow, you should find out about your family, write letters to your family. Ask them where they are.

You, the citizens of Waat, Akobo, Nasir, Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal, the northern Renk area, southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, let every one of you ask about your family. Are they alive or displaced? Quite frankly, I say that the SPLA movement has displaced the citizens of the south and the citizens of the backward areas.

We tell the truth. Listen carefully. The people of backward areas are true refugees within Sudan. But when we listen to the SPLA, they claim to be talking about citizens rights.

What citizens are they talking about when they are killing them and looting their property? They talk about peace as if peace were a joke.

They talk about the integration of Anya Nya II into the SPLA. What we heard from the SPLA yesterday, from the lips of John Garang, was that 75 percent of the Anya Nya II forces under the command of the former Major General Gordon [Kong Chuol] have defected to the SPLA.

This is a lie. They will not affect us, even in a single battle. We in Anya Nya II have completely restructured our forces. We inform all our forces that we have stepped up military and political activities. This will produce positive results for Anya Nya II.

All our brothers must be made aware of this. Our aim is to develop Anya Nya II's capability. This initiative has been undertaken by the Anya Nya II Executive Command.

Let us look at the victories Anya Nya II forces have scored since the departure of Gordon. We tell the SPLA: In the western area we have destroyed 12 SPLA camps. We ask them: Where is Riak Machar now?

Our force in Akobo has carried out very big operations. It has destroyed three camps there, as the SPLA forces know. We tell the SPLA that very large numbers of their men have joined Anya Nya II. Others have given themselves up to our brothers in the Armed Forces.

We also say that there is a split within SPLA ranks. [Words indistinct] Arok Thuon Arok and Carabino have now been arrested and put in prison. So has the stooge Daniel Kuot Matthews who thought he would integrate Anya Nya II with the SPLA. All this is well known.

The SPLA people know that they are being destroyed. They therefore want to deceive the Sudanese people into thinking that their morale is high, despite the disintegration and fragmentation which has taken place in Equatoria, between Gilario and the Dinka Bor. These facts must be clear to all countrymen in Sudan and to our brothers in the SPLA.

We say: What do the SPLA forces do? They plunder and feed on the southerners blood. They [word indistinct] the intellectuals, southerners. Where? Inside Ethiopian territory.

What is the role of the Ethiopian Government? It says that the people there are refugees. If they are refugees, why does it allow the SPLA movement to (?massacre) southern intellectuals? What kind of refugee is it who carries arms inside camps?

They enjoy all the facilities of the Ethiopian soldiers. These are facts, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the south. Honesty compels us to inform the entire Sudanese people of the falsehood and hypocrisy of the SPLA movement. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Numayri 'Attempt To Take Over'

JN1407181488 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Khartoum—In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Sudanese Interior Minister Lieutenant General 'Abbas Abu Shamah 'Abd al-Mahmud has denied Sudanese news reports about the discovery of an attempt to take over power by the deposed president Ja'far Numayri, now in Cairo.

Lt Gen Abu Shamah said that the Interior Ministry is not aware that certain former security police officials have been arrested or that a search is continuing to apprehend a security man who is still at large, as some newspapers have reported.

He added that such reports are tendentious and baseless, affirming that the security situation is stable in all regions of the Sudan.

Chief of Staff Says Southern Areas Under Control

EA1407215188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Faysal Mansur Shawir, chief of General Staff, has given an interview to AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH during which he confirmed that the Armed Forces have managed to gain full control in extensive sectors of the southern regions in Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile, Equatoria, and West Nuer areas, in addition to southern parts of Kordofan.

His excellency said that the rebellion is failing due to a collapse of morale, the spread of famine in their ranks, and the weakness of their supply lines.

He said that was reflected in the increasing numbers of returnees and those who are surrendering in addition to the continual defections and general collapse of the movement.

The interview with Lt Gen Faysal dealt with rehabilitation and development operations in the Armed Forces. His excellency confirmed that rehabilitation operations are continuous, and take into account economic reality. They strive to enable the Armed Forces to play an effective role. [sentence as heard]

He pointed out in this respect that the command had in the past managed to provide some of the requirements of the Armed Forces. Efforts are also continuing now with brothers and friends to fulfill these requirements.

In his interview, the chief of the General Staff dealt with the command's plans to alleviate the everyday burdens of officers and other members. He dealt with the housing plan for soldiers, pointing out that an agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Works, Housing, and Public utilities on starting the immediate handover of completed housing units to those who are entitled to them.

The survey of the remaining areas would continue and they would be handed over to the Armed Forces. His excellency said the decision to grant the family of every martyr a housing unit on land in his original locality is still valid. [passage omitted]

Bankers Union on Liquidation of Public Banks

JN1307140588 Khartoum SUNA in English 17845 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 13, (SUNA)—The Bankers General Trade Union has accused the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of supporting the calls for liquidating the banks of public sector.

The IMF, by the calls for liquidating the banks of public sector, aims at undermining the national economy, the Bankers General Trade Union told a press conference here today.

The trade union confirmed its firm stance against the liquidation of the banks of public sector and called for the nationalization of foreign banks.

The bankers decided to wage a procession next Sunday in protest against the government intention to purchase the banks of the public sectors.

Kuwait

Further on Visit to U.S. by Shaykh Sa'd

Addresses Washington Dinner

LD1407144488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1245 GMT 14 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, July 14 (KUNA)—More than 350 top Reagan administration officials, congressmen, corporate members, politicians and diplomats attended a dinner here Wednesday night in honor of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah.

The dinner was hosted at the famous Willard Hotel by Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, in honor of the crown prince.

Those attending included a wide-range of high-level Reagan administration officials and members of Congress.

Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead attended and so did top Washington personalities like former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and congressmen like Senator Richard Lugar of the foreign relations committee, among others.

Some of the top American media and television personalities were also there, some of whom were seated on the same table with Shaykh Sa'd, who was seen chatting with them all through the evening.

The exquisite and unusual table decorations at the hotel caught the attention of most of those attending.

A vase with tall flowers on each table represented the colors of the Kuwaiti flag while the bottom of the vases had candles looking like oilfield flares, with black sand, representing oil, spread under the vase on each table.

The guests' attention was also focused during the evening on Captain Subh[illegible] al-Yusuf and his crew of the Jabiriyah, which was hijacked last April.

They answered questions from their American guests about the ordeal and even signed autographs for some of those attending..

In brief speeches, Shaykh Sa'd, Kuwait's Ambassador Shaykh Sa'ud, and Acting Secretary of State John White emphasized the strong and ever-growing relationship between the U.S. and Kuwait.

"President Reagan's gracious invitation to h.h. the crown prince to visit Washington reflects the importance of this relationship," Shaykh Sa'ud emphasized.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd expressed his full satisfaction with the talks he held here in Washington and particularly the talks he held with President Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and with members of Congress.

"We in Kuwait are very satisfied with the relations of friendship and close cooperation which exists between the U.S. and Kuwait," Shaykh Sa'd said.

"We shall continue to strengthen the relationship and look forward to have a very close cooperation in every field," the crown prince added.

Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead also spoke highly about the warm relations between Kuwait and the U.S. and described Shaykh Sa'd's visit "a great success."

He told Shaykh Sa'd and those attending that the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers more than a year ago pushed the U.S.-Kuwaiti relationship into a "new phase of cooperation" and looked forward to a further strengthening of these ties in the interest of both countries.

Talks With House Committee

LD1407210588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1612 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Washington, July 14 (KUNA)—H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah Thursday went up for the second time to Capitol Hill and met with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Shaykh Sa'd met for over an hour with members of the committee, less than one day after he also met with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

H.H. the crown prince and prime minister was invited to Capitol Hill by the chairman of the committee, Dante Fascell and Representative William Broomfield, the ranking minority member on the committee.

Shaykh Sa'd discussed a wide variety of issues with the more than 25 members of the committee present, including the proposed arms purchase deal that has been submitted by the Reagan administration to Congress for 40 F-18 fighter planes and other arms and equipment.

The discussion also focused on the threats of the Iran-Iraq war and ways of ending it peacefully.

There was also a review of the reflagging operation and the escort by the U.S. and other countries' navies. [passage omitted]

F-18's, Maverick Missiles 'Go Hand-in-Hand'

LD1407215188 Kuwait KUNA English 2026 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 14 (KUNA)—A ranking Kuwaiti official Thursday stressed that the highly-disputed F-18 and Maverick missiles deal to Kuwait are inseparable, indicating that the Kuwaiti Government will decide whether to go on with the deal if the Mavericks are excluded from it by the Congress.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, in an interview with Voice of America, said that he does not know whether Washington and Kuwait can work something out, "but what I know is that the F-18's and the (Maverick) missiles go hand-in-hand."

Replying to a question on whether the recent arms deals with the Soviet Union and a possible one with the U.S. should serve as a warning to American legislators that there are other sources for arms, the Kuwaiti minister affirmed that his country has multi-sources for weapons, regardless of positions of these countries, noting "diversificaiton of sources of arms has been a fixed policy of the Kuwaiti Government for a long time."

Al-'Usaymi and a ranking government delegation accompanies H.H. the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah on a visit to the U.S. for talks with U.S. officials.

Speaking of the issues which Shaykh Sa'd focused on during talks with President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials, Al-'Usaymi said the two sides discussed the Gulf war, the Mideast crisis, in addition to bilateral links.

He described U.S.-Kuwaiti relations as "balanced" and goes back long in time and added that despite the differences in views, particularly toward the Mideast crisis, the two countries were able to build deep-rooted relations.

Asked if the U.S. can play a more effective role in establishing lasting and just peace in the Middle East, the Kuwaiti minister said that Washington's firm relations with Tel Aviv and many Arab capitals should enable it to bring this conflict to a happy ending.

On Kuwait's positions from the ongoing Iraq-Iran war, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs reiterated his country's refusing stance [as received] toward this conflict, which he said has cost both sides vast human and material losses.

In respect to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Al-'Usaymi vowed his government's support of the revolution, hoping that it would realise its goals, separated by establishing an independent Palestinian state and an end to 40 years of occupation.

Reportage on Visit by UK Defense Secretary

Confers With Defense Minister

LD1207210288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1119 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, July 12 (KUNA)—Visiting British Defense Secretary George Younger Tuesday conferred with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Younger and Shaykh Nawwaf's talks tackled means of boosting bilateral relations and the current situation in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

The British official was earlier today received by H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Younger has also conferred today with Acting Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

The British official arrived here last night on a three-day visit to Kuwait.

Comments on Talks

LD1407173188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1241 GMT 13 Jul 88

[By Walid al-Sirya and Bandar Zahayan]

[Text] Kuwait, July 13 (KUNA)—British Secretary of State for Defense George Younger Wednesday stressed that the recent accidents in the Gulf would not have happened if the completely unnecessary war between Iraq and Iran, had not continued.

The war is "the cause of all the tragedies", the minister told reporters upon leaving here at conclusion of his official three-day visit to the country.

The presence of the Royal Navy in the Gulf is in support of peaceful passage of international shipping, he said, noting that although the British Navy will defend itself if attacked no such attack is envisaged on the Royal Navy in the course of its mission in the Gulf.

Asked if Britain has any plans to expand Royal Navy protection for the ships entering the northern Gulf, the minister said, "No, we don't. We have a very big commitment in the Gulf, which results in us escorting about 80 vessels every month in and out of the southern half of the Gulf."

Recalling that there are three frigates, three minesweepers and a number of support vessels in the Gulf, Younger said, "Therefore, we simply do not have the resources to do more than what we are doing."

"It is also now the case that we have combined under British operational control the British, the Belgian, and the Dutch minesweepers, so we can't extend our protection to the northern Gulf", Younger said, adding "but we think we are making a bigger contribution than anyone else in the southern part of the Gulf."

On his talks here, the secretary said that the discussions touched on a wide range of issues including the activities of the Royal Navy in the Gulf as well as the attitude of the British Government towards ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Asked if he is going back with any orders of weapons from Kuwait, the minister said, "No."

He added Kuwait looks very carefully at the various types of weapons on offer and it tries to choose the best at lowest price.

For his part, Kuwaiti minister of defence, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad told reporters that the visit was a success and fruitful and has covered the situation in the Gulf and the developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

He added that he discussed with Younger some developed British equipments, noting that Kuwait will review the British offer and the extent of suitability of these hardware and Kuwait's need for it.

Answering a question on the Soviet-Kuwaiti recently signed arms contract, Shaykh Nawwaf said that it included the purchase of 245 Soviet personnel carriers.

Younger extended an invitation to Shaykh Nawaff to visit London, which the latter accepted.

Ends Visit 13 Jul

LD1307172188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0854 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 13 (KUNA)—British Secretary of State for Defense George Younger and the accompanying delegation left here Wednesday concluding an official three-day visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

During the visit Younger met the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, and Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The British minister also met with his counterpart Shaykh Nawwaf and Interior Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah,

Younger was seen off by the defense minister, and General Chief of Staff Mazayd al-Sana [post and name as received], Defense Undersecretary Faysal al-Da'ud, and British ambassador to Kuwait.

Shaykh Nawaf told KUNA that his talks with Younger were fruitful and covered the situation in the Gulf and the developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Means of military cooperation between the two countries, in addition to boosting bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were discussed by the two ministers.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Block of Missile Sale

JN1307193788 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jul 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Kuwait and the Multitude of Options"]

[Text] When Kuwait submitted its request to purchase modern arms from the United States, it sought to tread the shortest and most legitimate path in its search for the sources which might be ready to supply it with means of self-defense.

Thus, its first option was the United States, considering the ties of cooperation and friendship binding the two states and the high esteem reserved for Kuwait by U.S. political and economic quarters, as Kuwait is one of the countries which is pursuing balanced and neutral policies and which also believes that negotiations is the way to resolve regional disputes and problems.

The Kuwaiti political leadership has taken into account all the obstacles that could obstruct the arms deal and prepared itself for everything without closing the door to negotiations and also without abandoning the most convincing means of communication; namely, dialogue based on the use of convincing arguments and logic.

Kuwait, as President Reagan said, "approached the United States and requested as a friend does that we supply it with the means to defend itself and share with us the responsibility for defending the vital Arabian Gulf."

Hence, it is wrong for the Senate to think the Kuwaiti leadership can bargain over issues pertaining to Kuwait's sovereignty or affecting its right to take whatever measures it deems appropriate to serve its interests and meet its basic and necessary requirements.

It is true that Kuwait is a small country geographically. However, it has great confidence in its stands, in its policies, and in its way of tackling regional and international questions and issues.

Kuwait has held out in the face of terrorism and refused to succumb or yield to blackmail.

It has been stronger than all the conspiracies and machinations. It has always come out of all tests stronger and more determined to continue treading the road which it has opted for itself.

This clear Kuwaiti policy caused our enemies to lose control and base their calculations on faulty bases. The more they go to extremes in their perpetration of terrorism, the stronger our national unity becomes—a matter which enhances our ability to tackle crises and emergency situations displaying the spirit of the unified family and the solidity of one man.

All this applies to the internal front. As for the external front, our image is no different, as our principled stands have remained unchanged and our policy continues to maintain neutrality.

Furthermore, Kuwait has continued to maintain balanced relations based on mutual respect with all states. These have become well-known features of Kuwaiti policy throughout the world.

If the Senate has chosen to put Israel's interest ahead of that of the United States by blocking the sale of the Maverick missiles to Kuwait, we would like to assert that Kuwait is capable of serving its national and pan-Arab interests.

It has alternative options and channels which will enable it to acquire what it wants, and with the terms, specifications, and quantities that it desires.

Perhaps the Saudi experience is still fresh in the minds of the U.S. Administration officials, as a White House spokesman voiced his regret over the Saudi Kingdom's decision to purchase British arms and said "the Congress' objection to the Saudi arms deal resulted in the loss of $30 billion and this is a matter that certainly bothers U.S. firms".

We believe we will not have to wait long to know if the White House is obliged to issue a similar statement expressing regret that Kuwait turned to buy British, French, and perhaps Chinese, Korean, and Soviet weapons.

If the Senate wants, by rejecting the Kuwaiti request, Kuwait to turn to another arms supplier, then this proves Israel is also trying to make the United States lose another $20 billion.

PDRY

YAR Petroleum Ministry Delegation Ends Visit

EA1407081988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The delegation of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in the northern part of the homeland led by Brother (Adil Khurshid), the Ministry's permanent secretary, left Aden this evening after a visit to the southern part which lasted for several days.

Shortly before his departure, Brother (Khurshid) told ANA that the visit came in the framework of the agreement reached between the two brothers—the minister of energy and minerals in the southern part of the homeland and the minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the northern part of the homeland—to form a committee to prepare a law for investment and a constitution for the joint Yemeni oil exploitation company.

He said that in meetings with the southern part side the views exchanged between the two committees in the two parts of the homeland were studied. A common understanding was reached on a draft law for exploitation by the joint Yemeni company. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister on U.S. Policy, Arms Deal

JN1207172188 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Jul 88 p 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani in Sanaa by Yusuf 'Alawinah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Alawinah] What is the nature of the talks held with Richard Murphy during his recent visit [to Sanaa]?

[Al-'Iryani] It is good you asked me this question because an Arabic paper has said: "Murphy came to ask for military facilities." Have you read this?

['Alawinah] Yes, We have read this.

[Al-'Iryani] This is strange news, which makes us wonder why these papers fabricate such news and do not seek accuracy.

There is nothing in Murphy's visit to attract attention except the fact that the U.S. envoy's tour of the region does not usually include the YAR.

The mission was like that of the American envoys who discuss bilateral relations and the issue of the Palestinian people.

The brother president ['Ali 'Abdallah Salih] was frank and clear in his talks with Murphy.

I bet the talks which the president held were the most accurate and frank with a U.S. official on the U.S. responsibility toward the rights of the Palestinian people.

Murphy was told that U.S. policy is an obstacle to the solution, not the opposite, and that U.S. policy does not present a solution to the problem. The talks were frank in this regard, and this is what he heard.

With regard to bilateral relations, they are good. They are trade, economic, and cultural relations and they were not discussed with Murphy on the presidential level.

['Alawinah] Is there a U.S. arms deal with the YAR?

[Al-'Iryani] Never. However, nothing prevents concluding such a deal.

['Alawinah] Did you discuss this matter?

[Al-'Iryani] It was not discussed, particularly since the facilities given to us by the USSR cannot be compared with what the United States gives to us.

Our resources are limited, and I believe it would be wrong for us to shoulder heavy burdens because of the American terms.

We hope that the American and Soviet terms are alike. We always say to the Americans:

Offer terms similar [to those of the Soviets] and you are welcome.

['Alawinah] Our question now is on the uprising. Can you say that there is a change in the U.S. stand?

[Al-'Iryani] This stand is a psychological state, not a practical one. This psychological shock is represented in sensing the terrible reality in the occupied territory.

They [the Americans] forget that a chain is a chain even if it is golden. They believe that the Israeli chain, which is made of gold or diamonds, will turn the Palestinian people into citizens, who will thank and praise God.

I believe that the psychological shock in U.S. policy or in American society is the only positive thing. Practically, I have not found anything new. However, this creates some optimism.

The shock will finally result in recognizing reality, dealing with it, and trying to find a logical and realistic solution emerging from this reality. Under President Reagan, this is unlikely. [passage omitted]

['Alawinah] The last question: Is there Yemeni participation in the efforts being exerted to prevent a new deterioration in Syrian-Palestinian differences?

[Al-'Iryani] I know there are Kuwaiti efforts and the YAR is always ready to play such roles.

['Alawinah] What about the Iraq-Iran war?

[Al-'Iryani] I think the recent Iraqi victories have brought the end of the war very near.

Consultative Assembly Speaker, Deputies Elected

JN1307080488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excewrpt] The Consultative Assembly will resume its meetings today, Wednesday, to discuss items on its agenda.

The Assembly held its first meeting yesterday. At the beginning of the meeting, the decision of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, calling on the assembly to meet, was read. The Assembly members then took the constitutional oath.

Nomination for the post of Assembly speaker then took place in accordance with the regulations of the Consultative Assembly.

The election process was conducted through secret ballot.

Brother Judge 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi was elected speaker of the Assembly and Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi and Yusuf Muhammad al-Shahari were elected deputy speakers. [passage omitted]

Iranian Exploitation of Airbus Tragedy Attacked

JN1507084688 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Jul 88 pp 1,11

[Artice by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn: "The Pirates Must Stop the War First"]

[Text] Iran has started to exploit the incident of the afflicted Iranian airliner. It has raised a hue and cry and begun shedding tears. Some called for incriminating the United States, while they themselves perpetrated more vicious actions.

Others declared a state of mourning, while they should have done so on what is taking place these days in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and on what is taking place in the occupied territories. Some big countries even roared at this resounding incident.

The downing of a civilian airliner is not a happy incident, and no individual who has a conscience or a modicum of human feelings can condone it. However, to express pain is one thing; to exculpate Iran from all its crimes is another.

Many statements were made and there was much talk, and the incident still needs to be clarified. However, Iran the oppressor and the aggressor seized this opportunity to make the world forget the splendid Iraqi victories and the harm it has inflicted on the Iraqis and on the Arabs. It also sought to make the Iranian people forget the tyranny, oppression, injustice, and criminal actions it is carrying out against them.

Some reports mention that the airliner was on a suicide mission and that the pilot was in a state of torpor when the airliner, through certain movements, provoked the U.S. warship, which made it open fire on his aircraft, causing the tragic incident.

We do not excuse the United States, which established Israel, assassinated the peoples, resorted to dictators to oppress the people, provided Iran with weapons, armed Israel to the teeth, and stood against our Arab causes in the United Nations.

Most of the time, it had been the only one to support Israel in international forums. But we want to say here that Iran is also a country that practices piracy, interferes in our domestc affairs, fights us in a dishonorable manner, slaughters our children in their beds and our women in their boudoirs, demolishes houses, destroys our harvest, and sponsors terrorism.

There is a great difference between the tragedy of the airliner that was shot down and the crimes the Iranian regime is daily committing, crimes which are more atrocious by far than the downing of the airliner.

The world must ban crimes that are committed against civilians and must protest any attack against a civilian target. However, the world must also prevent the Khomeyniite highwaymen from exploiting this incident to avoid being punished.

RCC Decree Renames Ministry of Industry

JN1307182988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Decree issued by the Revolutionary Command Council dated 13 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Revolutionary Command Council.

Decree No 643.

Date of Decree: 13 July 1988

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Clause A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolutionary Command Council, in its session convened on 13 July 1988, decided the following:

1. The Ministry of Industry and Minerals set up in accordance with RCC Decree No 222 dated 6 March 1988 shall be named the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization.

2. The Military Industries Organization which was established in accordance with Law No 41 for 1988 shall be linked to the Ministrty of Industry and Military Industrialization. The organization—with all its employees, facilities, assets, and powers—will continue to be subject to the abovementioned law and to every law, decree, or regulation related to the Military Industries Organization without violating the authorities of the minister of industry and military industrialization that he exercises in his capacity as competent minister.

3. Two or more under secretaries shall be appointed for the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization depending on what the president of the republic decides.

4. This decree shall be effective as of the date it is published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council.

New Minister Appointed

JN1407183188 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Presidential Decree No 740 dated 13 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree No 740.

In accordance with the provisions of Clause C of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Brigadier General Husayn Kamil Hasan shall be appointed minister of industry and military industrialization. The ministers shall see that this decree is implemented.

Written in Baghdad, 28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 13 July 1988.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Mas'ud Rajavi Sends Message to Saddam Husayn

JN1407130488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council [INRC] has stressed that Iraq's position on the need to bring about peace and good neighborliness between Iraq and Iran is appreciated by the Iranian resistance.

He said that the five principles suggested by President Saddam Husayn as bases for a lasting peace between the two countries are in line with the peace plan of the INRC, which enjoys the support of the overwhelming Iranian majority.

This came in a congratulatory message from Mas'ud Rajavi sent today to President Saddam Husayn on the national day and the anniversary of the 17 July revolution.

In his message, Rajavi pointed out that the antihuman regime of charlatanism in Iran is the only party that insists on the continuation of the war and opposes peace between the two neighboring countries.

He stressed that the Iranian resistance is strongly determined to overthrow the Khomeyni regime for the sake of a lasting peace and the freedom of the Iranian people.

Rajavi said that the INRC, Mojahedin-E Khalq, and the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] are determined to topple the Khomeyni regime and open doors for lasting peace between the two neighboring countries.

Following is the full text of Mas'ud Rajavi's message:

Your Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq:

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On behalf of the just resistance of the Iranian people for peace and freedom, I extend to you the warmest congratulations on the occasion of Iraq's national day and the celebrations of 17-30 July.

Mr President: The declared Iraqi position on the need to achieve peace and good neighborliness between Iran and Iraq was, and is still, appreciated by the Iranian resistance. The five principles that Your Excellency proposed as bases for lasting peace between the two countries are basically in line with the plan of the INRC, which enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people, as well as many peace-loving forces, parties, and figures all over the world.

Most peoples of the world, as well as all the Iranian people, have known very well that the Khomeyni regime, the antihuman regime of charlatanism, is the only party that insists on maintaining the war to continue its ignominious rule. It is the regime that opposes peace between the two neighboring countries.

Indeed, the Khomeyni regime, destructive to all Iranian resources, is an enemy to our people and to all world Muslims.

Therefore, the Iranian people's just resistance is strongly determined to topple this entire medieval regime in order to establish durable peace and achieve freedom for the Iranian people.

All that Khomeyni did, through the use of various plots and the support of colonization and Zionism,—as he said several times—was to continue this aggressive war for both Iran and Iraq until the last house and last person in Iran was gone.

Therefore, the Khomeyni regime's maneuvers to avoid the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, as well as this regime's continued fanning of the fire of the war throughout the past years prove that Khomeyni has linked his fate with the war.

His submission to peace in any way means complete and comprehensive removal of his regime. Hence we know that as a result of successive blows to his war and repression machine, Khomeyni and his agents such as Rafsanjani will increase the volume of their plots.

They will do so in the hope that, by such political measures as extricating themselves from international isolation and receiving new support, their military power will be reactivated.

Khomeyni claims that such an endeavor enables him to continue his war policies in a better way in light of the current domestic and international circumstances and situations.

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On the other hand, being deeply aware of the nature of the Khomeyni regime and its plots and charlatanism the INRC, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, and the INLA—the holder of the banner of the Iranian people's just resistance for the sake of peace and freedom—have announced to all states and international communities that the Khomeyni regime has no legitimacy from the viewpoint of the Iranian people and will inevitably be toppled just like the shah.

This resistance has so far offered more than 70,000 martyrs and 140,000 political prisoners. The resistance has been very successful in and very proud of exposing the Khomeyni regime to the world as well as in explaining the issue of peace inside and outside Iran.

The resistance is now about to destroy the structure of the Khomeyni regime through escalating its military blows within the framework of the war of liberation and to open the door for a durable peace between the two sisterly, neighborly countries.

Having faith in the achievement of this great objective, I wish you success in serving peace and serving your people. I wish the Iraqi people further prosperity and progress.

[Signed] Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the INRC and commander in chief of the INLA 13 July 1988

Klibi Receives 'Aziz Message on Iranian Law

JN1407182388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis, 14 Jul (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has received a message from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the law that was endorsed by the so-called Iranian Majlis providing for the need to continue war and aggression against Iraq.

Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary who conveyed the message, said that the aforementioned law and the Iranian regime's statements which followed it prove this regime's insistence on its aggressive policy and its disavowal of its international commitments in accordance with the UN Charter. He added that this also proves Iran's rejection of international resolutions to end the war.

Al-Wayyis pointed out that during his meeting with Klibi, the talks dealt with a proposal to hold a meeting for the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

PLO's Hani al-Hasan Hails War Victories

JN1407103688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—A senior Palestinian official has said that the Iranian crime of killing Iraqi prisoners of war and the Iranian defeats at the war front are signs of Iranian weakness and lack of values.

Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to the PLO Executive Committee Chairman, said the Iraqi victories and the Palestinian uprising are two main positive factors at this period of contemporary Arab history.

The Palestinian official stressed to INA that the recovery of the Iraqi territories despite the wager of enemies of Arabism constitutes a state of national and pan-Arab elevation at a time when some Arab rulers devote their mercenaries and arms to implement a scheme against the Palestinian revolution in Beirut and Lebanon, within a scheme to convert Lebanon into an insulator between the Zionist entity and the Arab masses.

Al-Hasan described Iraq as a pan-Arab force that restored to Arabism its glory and pride, and succeeded in achieving Arab victories at a time overwhelmed by bitter defeats. He said that the Iraqi forces highlighted Arab capability to manage major battles and maintain their momentum.

He said that the retreat of the Khomeyniite forces was due to the Iraqi fighting determination, military mentality, and high principles. These factors harmonized, becoming a gigantic force that compelled the Iranian enemy to withdraw and sometimes leave its positions without fighting. He said that Iraq fights firmly and in accordance with wonderful plans.

Al-Hasan said that Iraq's commitment to the Palestinian question is a fact that Arab-Zionist history bears witness to. The Iraqi Army joined all battles for Palestine.

Even superpowers' military schools consider the joining of the 1973 war by Iraq a major military miracle that surpassed all traditional estimations.

He pointed out that the Zionist entity is seeking to prolong the Iraq-Iran war in an attempt to preoccupy the Iraqi Army. But under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, Iraq passed the danger stage and fully defeated the Iranian forces.

He described the crime of killing Iraqi prisoners of war as a desperate, rancorous, and cowardly action, totally repugnant to human values and Islamic religion.

Defense Minister Meets I Army Corps Commanders

JN1407181988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, held a series of meetings with officers and commanders in the I Army Corps northern sector.

During the meetings, Khayrallah praised the heroic deeds of our Armed Forces in the sector and the high morale of the fighters there.

Khayrallah also inspected the Iraqi Armed Forces' defensive positions in the I Army Corps northern sector.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,260

JN1407170588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1602 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,260 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our triumphant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force continued to deal blows to the aggressors. They flew 98 combat missions today through which they inflicted further losses on the Khomeyniites. They then returned safely to base with God's care.

2. The brave helicopter gunships flew 137 combat missions today through which they inflicted further losses on enemy scoundrels, weapons, and equipment. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Through concentrated artillery and mortar blows, one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector destroyed an enemy military camp, killed or wounded its personnel, destroyed a vehicle and damaged two others.

4. One of our brave units in the II Army Corps central sector stormed enemy positions in front of them and killed 16 scoundrels and captured another. Elsewhere in the same sector, four scoundrels were killed and four various positions were destroyed.

5. An ammunition dump was blown up and nine enemy personnel were killed or wounded in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. An enemy soldier was killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

6. An enemy scoundrel was killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, and six enemy personnel were killed and seven infantry positions and two gun emplacements were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. A number of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 July 1988

Units 'Settled' in Hajj 'Umran

JN1407174888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1727 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our units have settled in their defensive positions on our international border at the Haj 'Umran axis in the V Army Corps sector after the evil defeatists of the charlatan Khomeyni forces evacuated the area and returned to their territory.

[Dated] 14 July 1988

6,597 Iranians Captured

JN1407180288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 14 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At the hour when this statement was prepared, the number of enemy prisoners who were evacuated to the rear during the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah III operations has reached 6,597, including a large number of officers of various ranks.

This figure could become larger. We will acquaint you with this in later statements or communiques.

[Dated] 14 July 1988

2 Divisions 'Totally Destroyed'

JN1507114688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Maysan, 15 Jul (INA)—An INA team affirmed that the Iraqi Armed Forces have totally destroyed the 21st and 77th Iranian regular military divisions.

The team, which met with a large number of officers and soldiers from the two divisions, said that this destruction included their war machinery and that no military equipment was saved.

The Iranian forces could not save their equipment from either burning and destruction or falling into the hands of the courageous Iraqi forces. This equipment included tanks, artillery of different calibers, and various types of armored vehicles.

The team added that all the prisoners who fell into the hands of the Iraqi forces are from the regular Army. There is a large number of regular officers from the 21st and 77th Divisions among them.

The team pointed out that the number of prisoners captured this time is the largest number of soldiers and officers from the regular Army which has ever been captured by the Iraqi Army at one time since the start of the war.

The team also cited the Iranian officers who fell prisoner as saying that this was the harshest defeat the regular units of the Army had ever been subjected to in one battle, following the Khomeyni Guard forces' defeat in battles during the past months.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Update on 13 Jul Events

TA1407131688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 p 6

[Report by Oren Kohen, Amnon Levi, Alex Fishman, Ran Levi, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There were riots in Tulkarm yesterday, and the Army dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets. A curfew was imposed on 'Anabta. Residents of Kafr Jammal complained that the IDF blocked the entrance to their village with sand piles.

The Gaza Strip was relatively quiet yesterday. A partial commercial strike was staged in Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Gaza, and not all laborers reported to work. No special events were registered except for a few minor incidents of throwing stones at IDF vehicles. [passage omitted]

The security forces yesterday caught three Gaza instigators who were forcing merchants to close their stores. The security forces sealed the entrances of five alleys from which firebombs had been thrown at IDF patrols in the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza and in Rafah. Last night three firebombs were thrown at a house of a Gaza resident. [passage omitted]

Three judges of the Jerusalem District Court handed down a 14-year prison sentence on 'Ayyad Milhim, 24, for an attempt to murder a Jewish youth 4 months ago in order to advance the goals of the uprising. Milhim, who stabbed Ronen Yishay, 15 and ½, did not express regret about his deed before the sentence was given. [passage omitted]

Schools Closed; Curfew Imposed

TA1407162288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The military government closed all schools in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah until the end of the year. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that they were closed because of recurring disturbances involving students.

This morning, the military government imposed a curfew on the village of 'Ayn Yabrud in the Ramallah region because of disturbances and demonstrations by students.

The curfew on Qalqilyah, Bayt Sahur, the western sector of Nabulus, and 'Anabta, as well as the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus and the Ayda camp near Bethlehem, remains in effect.

Gaza Woman Sentenced

TA1407182788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] A woman from Gaza has been sentenced to 2 and ½ years in prison and given a 2-and-1/2-year suspended sentence after a military court in the city convicted her of engaging in terrorist activities and of being a member of the Fatah organization.

Among other things, the woman recruited a young man from Gaza and gave him four firebombs to attack security forces in the area.

Gaza Disturbances, Shooting

TA1507043688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There were some disturbances reported in the Gaza Strip. In the Al-Shati' refugee camp, residents threw stones at an Army patrol last night. The patrol responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. An Army spokesman said live ammunition was not used.

In another incident, security forces are investigating the shooting of an Arab youngster in Gaza City. Military sources said the youth arrived wounded last night at Al-Shifa' Hospital, and was treated for traces of shrapnel and rubber bullets. He was then released.

Later, authorities determined that the youngster was earlier chased by police in Gaza City's 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street. The chase involved a criminal matter.

Authorities also deny a report that there is a shortage of food in the Gaza Strip, especially in the refugee camps. Arab sources say the food situation is so bad that Gaza residents are literally begging soldiers for food.

Haifa Arab Given 9 Years in Jail for Stabbings

TA1407143588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Haifa District Court today sentenced a Shefar'am resident to 9 years in jail, 2 of them suspended, after convicting him of stabbing two IDF soldiers.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the two soldiers wanted to reach their army base in a taxi in which the Arab youth, 'Amir Muhammad Sada, was traveling. After they entered the taxi, Sada stabbed them in the stomach.

A resident of the village of 'Arraba who was convicted of burning tires and blocking the Lotem junction today received a 15-month prison sentence and an 18-month suspended sentence.

The Haifa District Court judge ruled that the offenses had a nationalist basis. She convicted him of identifying with a terrorist organization and endangering human lives on a highway.

Rabin Expects U.S. Pressure on Arms Procurement
TA1407115888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 p 5

[Report by Amnon Levi and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin anticipates mounting U.S. pressure on Israel to participate in the arms procurement race. Rabin was answering motions to the Knesset agenda on the issue of the British-Saudi arms deal.

The minister said that during his U.S. visit, the Americans asked him why Israel is experiencing an increase in private consumption and no increase in defense spending while the armament race is on. Rabin claimed that Israel has friends in the United States, but the fact of the matter is that it is Britain and France that sell weapons.

According to him, the U.S. arms industry is in distress, and this might lead to additional pressure. Israel's friends in the world, said Rabin, will do their best to keep arms deals at a minimum, but it is feared that their influence is quite limited.

The defense minister told the Knesset that in view of the latest arms deals, he is pleased that the Lavi project has been canceled. Rabin is also content with the fact that Israel signed a contract for the supply of F-16's, and that some F-15 aircraft will start arriving in Israel at the beginning of 1991. [passage omitted]

Peres Rejects UNIFIL Redeployment to SLA Area
TA1407175588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refuses to agree to a change in the deployment of UNIFIL in South Lebanon at the expense of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The defense minister informed Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, with whom he met this afternoon, of his decision. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is in the studio with the details:

The UN mandate is due to be renewed next month. That is the reason that the UN under secretary general has come to the region. He is visiting UNIFIL troops in south Lebanon and is to meet leaders in the region. Goulding told Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the SLA should evacuate several positions in south Lebanon, especially in areas where there is a Shi'ite population. The strongholds would be replaced with UNIFIL troops. Rabin rejected the proposal and insisted that the UN deployment in south Lebanon continue in its existing lineup.

Goulding also met this morning in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Goulding said Syrian officials told him that Israel is interested in a divided Lebanon. The foreign minister responded that Israel is interested in a stable Lebanon rather than a divided one and in a secure northern border.

Goulding showed interest in the political process in the region to help prepare the secretary general's report to the General Assembly in the fall. The foreign minister told the UN under secretary general that as soon as the political process in the region stalled somewhat, the arms race accelerated, and Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait are procuring enormous quantities of arms. Mr Peres called on the United Nations to contribute to efforts to stop the arms race.

IDF Patrol Attacked Near Security Zone Border
TA1407125588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Several mortar shells were fired at noon at an IDF patrol in the township of Kawkaba on the border of the security zone. Nobody was injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht said that this is the area in which there was an exchange of fire between an IDF force and Hizballah terrorists yesterday.

UN sources told our correspondent that IDF cannons responded by firing some 25 shells in the direction of the shelling.

Beilin Meets Spanish Foreign Minister on EEC
TA1507051288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text]Spain has reportedly promised Israel that it will work to convince the EEC to ratify its trade agreements with Israel. This emerged from a meeting between Yosi Beilin, the director general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, and Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez.

Fernandez-Ordonez said he would send a senior diplomat to Israel to learn the problems of the Middle East. Spain will take over the chairmanship of the EEC in January. Fernandez-Ordonez also told Beilin that the Spanish foreign minister found Arab representatives, including those of the PLO, flexible and ready to embark on an effort to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Gaza Population Migrating; Property Abandoned
TA1407125888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A paper prepared by the Civilian Administration reveals a surprising fact: Some 106,500 residents have left the Gaza Strip in the past 20 years.

The document does not cite their destinations, but they are believed to have left for Arab and European countries, while the young among them probably went to the United States or the communist countries for studies.

The document further says that in 1979, some 30,000 Al-'Arish residents were handed over to the Egyptians.

Another fact about this negative migration: Since 1967, 2,500 houses and 8,000 dunums of land have been abandoned.

There are some 365,000 dunums in the entire Gaza Strip; of this, today approximately 100,000 dunums are government property, 193,000 dunums are privately owned, and 72,000 dunums are not registered.

The document adds that Egypt left behind many assets which Israel took over and is running. The worth of the property is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sources in the Civilian Administration said that as far as they know, Egypt has no claims to any assets or property left in the Gaza Strip.

Newspaper Denies PLO Offered Direct Talks

TA1407161788 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Stand and the Israeli Storm"]

[Text] Fishing in muddy waters, dealing with affairs in a selective manner, and not calling things by their real names have been and continue to be the dominant traits of Israeli reaction to political "portents" in the Middle East.

One who followed up the recent visit to Israel by the Romanian envoy, as well as the statements and comments that accompanied this visit, is liable to have observed the political and propaganda effort exerted by Israel to empty this visit's purpose of its real content and to add a new content that exists nowhere but in the imagination of Israeli statesmen, foremost of whom is Yitzhaq Shamir.

This approach was highlighted in the Israeli prime minister's interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, in which he claimed that the PLO proposed through Romania the initiation of direct negotiations with Israel to find an interim settlement in the occupied territory similar to the Camp David accords.

Even those diplomatic observers who are least informed about the talks that the Romanian envoy held in Israel affirm that Shamir's statements are incorrect and are no more than a political storm and an attempt to split the national Palestinian ranks.

The Romanian envoy raised nothing more with the Israelis than the impressions that President Nicolae Ceausescu had following his talks with brother Yasir 'Arafat, as well as the PLO's acceptance of the principle of negotiations, but not direct negotiations—rather, through an international conference attended by the five great powers and the parties to the conflict, headed by the PLO.

The PLO's tireless effort to achieve a just peace does not, under any circumstances, mean that the PLO is running after capitulatory plans. The PLO has affirmed its rejection of "Camp David" and the principle of direct negotiations with Israel because experience has proven the failure of this course for reaching a just and honorable peace in the Middle East.

The way leading to peace is obvious and not prone to error. It is basically based on achievement of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

As for the PLO's readiness to accept a short transitional period during which the United Nations would supervise the occupied territory, this had been decided upon by the Arab summits, and the PLO consented to it in order to allow the Palestinians to exercise their right freely under the UN banner in preparation for establishing their independent state. Any other interpretation of this statement is tantamount to soap bubbles that disappear as soon as they are touched.

Newspaper Sees Shift in U.S. Palestinian Policy

TA1407085988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Ronald Reagan on the Palestinians"]

[Text] After meeting with the Kuwaiti premier in the White House on Tuesday, President Reagan spoke eloquently about the need to realize the legitimate political aspirations of the Palestinians even while safeguarding Israel's legitimate security concerns.

To some ears, Mr. Reagan's employment of the adjective "political" to define the Palestinians' legitimate aspirations might have sounded as merely an attempt to convince the Kuwaitis of the administration's resolve to supply them with the arms they had asked to buy from America. That would have been the wrong reading of Mr. Reagan's, or his ghost-writer's, intention.

The added little word, political, is a measure of the recent shift in the official American view of the prerequisites of an Arab-Israel peace.

At Camp David, in 1978, the parties jointly acknowledged the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and their just requirements, and the same formula was picked up by Mr. Reagan in his speech of September 1 1982. It amounted to recognition of the fact that the problem of

the Palestinians was not merely one of homeless refugees, but that it concerned the future of an ethnic group, entitled to a homeland of its own.

The recognition the U.S. still withheld from the Palestinians was as a political group, to which the permanent status of, say, autonomy within a larger entity would be quite unsuitable.

Such recognition was granted the Palestinians by the secretary of state, George Shultz, during his visit to Amman last June 4, when he spoke publicly about the "political rights" of the Palestinians. The use of the word could not have been accidental.

It was presumably at Mr. Shultz's behest that Mr. Reagan himself, suitably employing a somewhat less daring new word, has now spoken of the "political aspirations" of the Palestinians.

Official Washington will, of course, insist that U.S. policy remains unchanged through such shifts of terminology, and that semantics has nothing, or in any case not much, to do with the quest of Middle East peace. But it is through such minor shifts that policy normally changes.

The status-quo sleepwalkers in Israel will take no notice of this, of course, until all that remains for them to do is to raise a futile hue and cry.

Preemptive Strike Made More Likely by Arms Race

TA1407140788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 p 9

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "A Return to the Preemptive Strike"]

[Text] It would be wrong to center the debate on the repercussions of the widescale arms race in the Middle East only on the question of whether the balance of forces between Israel and its neighbors has been upset.

The senior Army officers who last week analyzed the performance of the Tornado aircraft and the capability of the Israeli Air Force to down them during their flight to targets in the Tel Aviv area diverted attention from the real issue involved in the accelerated procurement by the Arab countries in the past 2 years.

The enormous quantities of sophisticated arms in the countries encircling Israel, particularly the build up of advanced air forces with a capability of deep attacks into the interior, and the deployment of long range surface-to-surface missiles, might make the option of an Israeli preemptive strike much more likely and even inevitable in the long run.

The growing strength of the Arab countries might once again make the principle of a preemptive strike a permanent feature of Israel's defense doctrine, and that is the major danger. The preemptive strike, which became an integral part of Israel's military doctrine after the Sinai campaign, reached its peak on 5 June 1967.

Political considerations prevented the first strike on 6 October 1973. The price for failing to implement Israel's first strike capability on Yom Kippur was many casualties, but it did not prevent the IDF from being victorious on the battlefield.

The deployment of over 1,500 fighter planes and long range surface-to-surface missiles in a constant state of alert in countries encircling Israel on the east and west might push it into a situation in which it would be forced to make a preemptive strike each time that there is a likelihood that a war could break out.

There are 650 fighter planes in Syria, over 600 in Egypt, and 110 in Jordan. The British arms deal will put the number of fighters in Saudi Arabia at over 300. The Iraqi Air Force's 600 aircraft must be added to the enormous number of fighters close to our borders. All these air forces are equipped with the best aircraft manufactured in the East and West.

The qualitative edge the Israeli Air Force enjoyed in the type of aircraft it possessed in the past was wiped out once the Arabs began to procure fighter planes from the West.

The Egyptian Air Force is flying F-16's and Mirage 2000's, and Saudi pilots are flying F-15's and Tornados. Jordanian Air Force pilots will soon be flying Western aircraft such as the Tornado and perhaps the Mirage 2000. The Syrian Air Force has MIG-29's whose performance is similar to that of the F-15, while in a year's time the Syrians will also take possession of Sukhoi-24 advanced fighters.

It was learned this week that the first Chinese surface-to-surface missiles will arrive in Saudi Arabia. Their range is over 3,000 km thereby making them capable of attacking any target anywhere in Israel. The Syrians have missiles with a 300 km range, and they are apparently negotiating with the PRC for a supply of missiles with a range of more than 600 km.

Iraq has missiles with a 650 km range. Egypt has missiles with a 300 km range, and they are now participating in the development of the Argentine Kondor missile, which has a range of 1,000 km.

This huge concentration of fighter planes and missiles forces the IDF to provide a suitable operational answer which in wartime will prevent fatal attacks on soldiers on the battlefront and similar casualties in the rear civilian areas. It is clear that in a simple comparison of air forces, the IDF will be superior. There is also no doubt that an air battle in which only the Israeli and Syrian Air Forces take part will conclude with the defeat of the Syrian pilots, as was the case in 1982.

This would also be the case with the other Arab air forces. The problem, however, is how to fight several Arab air forces simultaneously, as well as the potential dispatch of many dozens of missiles at targets in the heart of Israel.

The Israeli Air Force's resources are limited, and according to open sources, it has some 600 fighters. With this limited number the Air Force has to provide answers for all the possible air threats Israel might have to face.

In view of the increasing challenges being faced by the Israeli Air Force, there is special significance in the fact that the British deal provides the Saudi Air Force with a new dimension in its offensive capability. Its procurement of over 120 Tornado aircraft, together with the 60 F-15's already operational in the Saudi Air Force, gives it a serious offensive potential against targets anywhere in Israel.

That is why the IDF must not ignore the need to provide the Air Force with the capability of preventing penetrations by Saudi aircraft. If a war broke out against a coalition of Arab states, even if only a partial coalition, the Israeli Air Force might find itself in a situation in which the number of aircraft needed to meet the air threat from Syria, Jordan, and Iraq would make it difficult to also foil the Saudi threat.

The most effective answer to such a scenario is, of course, neutralizing the Saudi, Jordanian, or Syrian threat. After studying the quantities of sophisticated military equipment in the possession of the confrontation states, and those due to arrive in the coming years, it seems that the time has come to realize that the Israeli Air Force will find it difficult to deal simultaneously with all the air threats posed during wartime. The logical conclusion is to make the principle of a preemptive strike a permanent and vital element of the IDF's military doctrine.

If we add the need to prevent the launching of missiles against Israel's rearguard—after taking into account that within the immediate future the IDF will not have weapons systems capable of shooting down surface-to-surface missiles—we find that the greater the numbers of missiles deployed near our borders, the greater the chances for an Israeli preemptive strike aimed at the missile bases.

On the face of it, it seems that there is nothing wrong in reviving the principle of a preemptive strike as part of Israel's security concept, but it is worth recalling that political considerations might make it difficult to implement such a decision. Making the preemptive strike an essential component of IDF doctrine might take a very high political and economic toll—if the IDF is called on to implement it.

Briefs

Space Research Cooperation Agreements

Israel signed an agreement of cooperation with the ECC in general, and with the FRG in particular, in the areas of space research, technology, and aeronautics on 12 July. The agreement was signed by Science and Development Minister Gid'on Pat and the FRG's deputy economics minister. Scientific cooperation between the Israel Space Agency and its European counterpart will be expanded. Minister Pat and the German guest decided to form a joint team for the Israeli Science and Development Ministry and the FRG Economics Ministry. [Summary] [*TA1407175788 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p 11*]

Paper Says Prime Minister To Form New Cabinet
JN1507102288 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Informed sources in Amman have said Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will form a new cabinet next week.

Today's issue of the newspaper AL-BAYAN cites these sources as saying: 'Abdallah Salah, permanent representative of Jordan to the United Nations, is the most prominent candidate to replace Tahir al-Masri as minister of foreign affairs.

The newspaper adds that new faces will be appointed as ministers in the reshuffle. Big changes will also take place in a large number of government departments and public institutions in Jordan.

Ministers Address Expatriates Conference
JN1307100888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 88 p 10

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Israel continues to think that an alternative homeland for the Palestinians can be established in Jordan and that many Israeli politicians and political parties continually reiterate that Jordan is Palestine, that the infamous Balfour Declaration covers Jordan, and that if Israel makes this concession it will concede its rights to Palestine as a whole.

Addressing the fourth expatriates conference's morning session yesterday, Al-Masri said: Israel is suffering a population problem, and 2 million Palestinian people are living there. This problem will be exacerbated when the Palestinian population reaches 3 million by the beginning of the next century.

Al-Masri noted that the principle and philosophy of the "alternative homeland" continues to be in Israel's mind and Israel will continue to work for announcing it at the proper moment. He said: To confront this, we must emphasize the Palestinian identity in Palestine, and everyone in and outside Jordan should be cautious and should reject this idea.

Al-Masri pointed out that this Israeli thinking compels Jordan to adopt certain policies and take daring steps that may not be in harmony with Arab positions because it is aware of the dangers that will threaten this part of the world if Israel is allowed to implement its schemes against Jordan.

In reply to a question, Al-Masri said: Jordan was the first to unveil the evils of Camp David and to initiate Arab steps to abort this agreement. King Husayn played a prominent role during the Baghdad summit conference and in the resolutions passed in this subject.

Al-Masri said: The situation has changed now. The Camp David agreements are only paper agreements and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is dealing with them in such a way that they have lost their substance and he is interacting with the Arab nation as befits the great sister Arab state.

Al-Masri noted that Egypt is committed to the collective Arab Defense Pact, something President Mubarak announced in the People's Assembly recently.

Concerning the autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Al-Masri said: Egypt is not committed to this autonomy and there are no Egyptian or Israeli-Egyptian measures to implement this part of the Camp David agreement. The Arab states' dealing with Egypt arises from their awareness that the Egyptian Arab role is a primary factor which the Camp David agreements could never cancel.

Al-Masri said: Israel admits that peace with Egypt is a cold peace. In fact it is too cold.

He added: An international conference for peace in the Middle East will empty the Camp David agreements of their contents and the Arabs should come closer to Egypt in order to distance it from these agreements.

In this regard, the foreign minister said Arab efforts, especially Jordanian, are continuing to restore Egypt to the Arab League, adding that such a step would completely end the Camp David agreements.

On military assistance to Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression, Al-Masri said Iraq has not requested military assistance from anybody and will be able to repulse Iranian aggression. Recent victories, Al- Masri noted, are proof of the Iraqi Army's ability to remain steadfast and triumph.

Al-Masri noted that Jordan and other Arab states are prepared to extend all possible assistance to Iraq, including military force, asserting that the Iraqi victories will continue and the Iraqi steadfastness will help end this war.

Al-Masri stressed that negotiations and Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598—not military action—would end the war. Therefore, Arab countries and peace-loving countries should pressure Iran and its friends to get Iran to respond to peace calls, stressing that Iran is weak militarily, politically, and economically.

Regarding reconciliation between Iraq and Syria, Al-Masri said that Jordan's policy as well as His Majesty King Husayn's moves are based on the notion that the Middle East equation will change if Syria and Iraq agree to achieve a genuine reconciliation.

He added that efforts are underway to reach that goal, may God guide everybody. He pointed out that he cannot state the difficulties preventing such a reconciliation. He added: We in Jordan do not see any major obstacle to achieving the reconciliation.

Asked about King Husayn's call for establishing Arab armies, he said: "I cannot say that there have been tangible steps in this regard." He added that King Husayn had discussed the issue with Arab leaders, and we will continue to propose it because it is an alternative to the current waste of resources and growing armaments spending.

Regarding Jordan's view of the axiom that what has been taken by force can be restored only by force, he said that certain Arab and international factors have prompted the Arabs to abide by the peaceful solution approved by the Fes summit in 1982. He added that the uprising has changed many equations, and it will continue until the occupying power knows that the Palestinian people will not accept the occupation and will reject any other sovereignty over their land.

Al-Masri pointed out that under the current circumstances, the uprising should be interpreted as a political action. World War II was interpreted as a political action, adding that this does not exclude resorting to force to regain one's rights. He said that the two superpower's positions have become similar regarding the international peace conference, and that the international detente will encourage the parties involved to achieve a settlement of the Palestine and Middle East question, adding that the uprising in the occupied territories is moving in parallel with the peaceful solution.

At the beginning of the session, which opened under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Haj Hasan, minister of transportation, acting minister of labor and social development, and chairman of the conference, Al-Masri reviewed the principles of Jordan's foreign policy through a political paper entitled "Positions and Issues."

It is noteworthy that AL-DUSTUR had published in a previous issue the content of that paper, which was welcomed and appreciated by the conference participants, when Al-Masri explained the most important points and issues as well as Jordan's firm positions on them. [passage omitted]

Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Dudin presented a working paper entitled "Jordan and the Palestine Question" during the session held under Engineer Khalid al-Haj Hasan, in which he explained Jordan's role in alleviating the sufferings of the steadfast people in the occupied homeland and supporting their steadfastness on their land in order to foil the Israeli schemes. AL-DUSTUR had published the paper.

Answering questions from the audience, Dudin said that Jordan's continued suport for the West Bank and Gaza is not linked with any political poistion, adding: We are carrying out our duty to our people there. He also said that the Jordanian Government is committed more than any other party to dealing with the situation, pointing out that Jordan continues to fulfill its commitments toward the occupied West Bank and Gaza through meeting the needs of the civil service—except the judiciary—by cooperating with the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for supporting the resistance, and spending the aid extended by the Arab countries since 1979.

He said: "We do not pay lip service." We allocate available funds and we spend them, there. Regarding any support without the knowledge of the Ministry of Occupied Territories, we do not pay attention to it, but ask the party that sent it, pointing to the restrictions imposed by the occupation authorities on the transfers to the occupied homeland.

Answering a question, Dudin said that the bridges see surprises daily, and that the ministry deals with each of them separately. He added that the occupation authorities prevent children whose names are entered in the identity cards of their mothers from entering. They also stamp exit permits to compel them to return within 1 week without even knowing the identity of the bearer. When these citizens return, the occupation authorities prevent them from entering bnecause of the expiry of the permit.

Dudin also said: There are interpreters on the bridges to translate any Hebrew word for those coming from the West Bank and Gaza in order to prevent any mistake that would ban them from returning. He added: The government asked those in the East Bank to travel to the West Bank or Gaza, especially the families, so that they will not lose citizenship as a result of the recent Israeli measures.

Dudin also expressed the Ministry's readiness to help citizens living abroad to travel to the West Bank to renew their permits or get a temporary passport within 1 hour or ask for permits from the occupied homeland so that no citizen will be prevented from residing in Palestine. He said that the International Committee of the Red Cross in Amman is closely following up the case of some families prevented from returning to the homeland.

Dudin also expressed the ministry's readiness to receive donations to add them to the other activities within the framework of the development program for welfare societies, services, medical, and educational services. He warned that some citizens get Israeli passports to travel to the United States, adding that this is an Israeli temptation to empty the land of people.

He said: We are not prepared to help these people, who should pay the price in order to teach the others. He added that the Palestinians are duty-bound to remain on their land even if tanks overrun them.

More on Conference

JN1407102088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jul 88 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES economics coorrespondent Salmah B. Ni'mat]

[Excerpt] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Tuesday that Jordan resisted American and Israeli pressures to hold direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and insisted on its call for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Al-Masri told the fourth Jordanian expatriates conference here that support for Jordan's position was growing larger and larger every day.

"His Majesty King Husayn took upon himself the mission of solidifying the idea of an international peace conference in confrontation of the Israeli and American positions calling for direct negotiations," Al-Masri told the conference.

"Thanks to these continuous efforts," he added, "the circle of Arab and international support for this position will be growing wider day after day until the word of truth becomes heard."

He said that over the years, Jordan has exerted relentless and tireless efforts to convince friendly nations and all influential countries that peace cannot be just or permanent except within the context of international law that guarantees it.

The foreign minister said the Kingdom received a positive response and cooperation from Arab states during the emergency Arab summit conference meeting in Amman.

Arab states "announced with one, collective voice that a just, comprehensive and peaceful solution could only be achieved through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation," he said.

Al-Masri said Jordan had warned against the continuation of Israel's occupation of Arab territories before the breakout of the Palestinian intifada [uprising] and the dangers of denying legitimate rights to people under occupation.

"With the continuation of the intifada, Jordan declares and affirms that the unity of ranks and position are two conditions necessary for the continuation of resistance and achieving its goals," the foreign minister told the conference. He said the Kingdom warns against complacency or the surrender to elements of division.

He stressed that any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a settlement of the Palestinian question in all its aspects, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determiantion.

"The principles of Security Council Resolution 242 apply to all occupied territories," Al-Masri said. He said Jordan, as a sovereign, independent state, would not represent the Palestinian people at an international conference and would not negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

The foreign minister reiterated, however, that Jordan was "ready to attend the conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin, presenting a paper on Jordan and the Palestine question, told the conference that the geographical proximity and the common history, in addition to kinship ties, "Arab nationalism and a common destiny have woven an organic distinctive relationship between Jordan and Palestine throughout history until the present day."

Dudin told representatives of the nearly one million Jordanian expatriates all over the world that the fourth expatriates conference convened as the Palestinian uprising enters its eighth month in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"Jordan has played and will continue to play an effective role on all political and material levels in support of citizens under occupation, to help them, continue their blessed revolt against the Israeli occupation and its oppressive tools." [passage omitted]

Al-Tabba' on Private Sector

JN1407072488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 88 p 6

[By JORDAN TIMES economics correspondent Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—Economic recession, coupled with a decline in Arab financial aid, a drop in the size of remittances from Jordanian expatriates and a decrease in the rate of investments have resulted in high unemployment and the shrinking of the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Al-Tabba' said Wednesday.

This has had a negative influence on all aspects of the Jordanian economy and has sustained the present deficit in the balance of trade, Al-Tabba' added.

Addressing the fourth Jordanian expatriates conference, Al-Tabba' said that on the other hand, the Kingdom's political stability and an increase in the gross national product in 1987, have succeeded in confronting the growing challenges.

He said that the government has adopted the principle of private enterprise and free market forces to boost the role of the private sector in reactivating the economy.

Al-Tabba' said that in order to deal with negative influences on the economy, the government "has adopted several decisions and measures to deal with these influences by reactivating the various sectors of the economy."

Citing examples, the minister said the government sought to protect local products in different ways, ranging from protectionism to subsidies and exemptions. He said the government resorted to import substitution, encouraging exports and increasing their competitiveness as a means to improve the economic performance.

However, Al-Tabba' conceded that "these policies are not enough and we have no choice but to follow up with measures such as more import substitution, not only of high-tech products but also of services."

On protectionism, the minister told the conference that the government was in favour of "productive protectionism" to support local industries and farms. He said it was time to make an asassement of the country's experience in this field, "to decide which kind of protectionism is more appropriate and which industries and products need protection."

"We have to take into consideration the interests of the producer, the consumer as well as the country, within the framework of a free economy in which we beleive," he noted.

There is a need to readjust education policies and direct them towards vocational specialisation and specialisation needed in traditional export markets, Al-Tabba' said.

On the country's investmet climate, the minister said that it is considered good compared to other developing countries, especially due to political stability and the economic system "which is based on free enterprise."

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Husayn al-Qasim delivered a speech to the conference in which he reviewed the latest measures aimed at regulating the domestic foreign exchange market.

He said that recent disturbances in the local market, causing pressure on the Jordan dinar, have necessitated steps to be taken by the central bank to contain the problem through a reorganization of the domestic exchange market on fixed bases and rules.

"This was done to secure stability for the Jordan dinar, its convertibility and to prevent similar disturbances in the future," Al-Qasim said.

The new instructions, he said have led to achieving the pre-determined goals in terms of stabilizing the Jordan dinar's exchange rate. "It has restored confidence in the national economy and its ability to adjust to difficulties."

Also addressing the conference, Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Muhammad 'Asfur said that Jordan looked favourably at the immigration of Jordanians. He said these represented an important part of the Jordanian economy.

He said that remittances in foreign currency from Jordanian expatraites "can be considered a significant source that could be resorted to when in need..."

The relationship between expatriates and their homeland "should be developed in many ways, with the aim of guaranteeing the continuation of remittances. We should work fast and hard on developing a mechanism to improve the level of interaction between expatriates and the national economy," 'Asfour said.

In another speech to the conference, Chamber of Industry President Khaldun Abu Hassan said that when dealing with the role of expatriates in national development, "we must be aware of the importance of developing their savings in a way that secures them a return when time comes from their retirement and return home."

Abu Hassan stressed the importance of helping expatriates find jobs for their children as they enter the labour market and to direct their investments towards small and large-scale industries in the industrial cities near Amman and in Irbid.

He said the creation of new job opportunities in Jordan required industrial and agricultural expanion.

Participants in the expatriates conference raised several questions on the government's policies and praised measures taken to encourage expatriates' investments in the Kingdom.

Tala Abu Ghazalah, president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants delivered a speech at the conference in which he discussed the topic of foreign transfers and their role in supporting the national economy.

On the sidelines of the conference, Dr Edward Gress, a professor of accounting and chairman of the Department of Accounting at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, conducted a seminar on flexible budgeting for businessmen attending the expatriates conference.

Saudi Arabia Transfers $59 Million in Arab Aid

JN1307114488 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Saudi Arabia has transferred $59.5 million to Jordan Central Bank as part of its Arab support of confrontation countries. The secretary general at the Finance Ministry said that this is the third transferred amount from the Saudi Government this year.

Speakers View Closure of In'ash al-Usrah

JN1407092088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 88 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Najwa Najjar]

[Excerpts] Amman—The closure of In'ash al-Usrah, a society which has become an "economic alternative" to Palestinians in the occupied territories and a means of preserving the Palestinian national heritage and culture, was highlighted Tuesday evening by several prominent Jordanian and Palestinian speakers.

Three weeks ago In'ash al-Usrah become the first West Bank charitable organisation to be closed by the Israeli authorities. Its director, Samihah Khalil, better known as Umm Khalil, is still detained by the authorities for "indoctrinating students" and "participating in violent demonstrations."

The speakers discussed the recent arrest of Umm Khalil and the closure of In'ash al-Usrah. They claimed it was part of ongoing Israeli "fascist" policies in the occupied territories, stressing that Palestinian identity was at stake and the Arab World should not stand idle.

Umm Khalil's daughter, Sa'idah, Pharmaceutical Association President Taysir Humsi, and former mayor of Al-Birah 'Abd al-Jawad Salih reviewed the society's activities, pointing out that the society has become "part of the Palestinian women's struggle against the occupiers."

Since the society's inception 23 years ago, the Israelis have detained Umm Khalil six times, placed her under town arrest, subjected her to continuous questioning and surveillance, and forbade her to see her children for eight years. [passage omitted]

With JD 100 borrowed from 'Abd al-Jawad Salih and six women, In'ash al-Usrah in al-Birah was formed in 1965, Khalil said.

Through the jobs and programmes inacted over the years the society has recreated a Palestinian society amidst the rubble of refugee existence.

"If a Palestinian home was destroyed or if a Palestinian was unemployed, he or she would know that they have a place to go," Salih said. [passage omitted]

"Giving financial, moral and media support is not enough," Humsi said. "words must be transferred into action."

Salih, Engineering Association President Layth Shubaylat, and 'Abd al-Hamid Shuman Foundation Director Dr As'ad 'Abd al-Rahman presented some ways to fulfill such a goal.

The unity of Arabs was said to be crucial in order to provide practical support to preserving the Palestinian identity.

"All Arabs and Muslims must stand as one body against the Zionist enemy and its attempts to replace the Palestinian identity with a Jewish identity," Shubaylat said.

He said the most effective plan for In'ash al-Usrah is "to understand the overall situation and the attempts to divide the Arabs. Nothing taken by force can be returned except by solidarity and force," he added.

'Abd Rahman said that In'ash al-Usrah's struggle was an "identity struggle." However, he said, the fight to preserve the Palestinian identity is not to be fought by only the Palestinians. He cited the participation of Arabs in revolutions throughout the Arab World.

"Arabs have and should continue fighting the Zionist programme," he said.

He noted the "deep link" between the Jordanian and Palestinian people. "The Palestinian identity of struggle is the same as the Jordanian identity of struggle. The deep mass link between both peoples continues today because the people want it to continue and because only when there is an independent Palestinian-Arab state will there be a safe bridge to Jordan."

He stressed that both Jordanians and Palestinians must continue fighting against the Zionist programme and Western imperialism.

"Intifada (uprising) until revolution, and revolution until victory," were 'Abd al-Rahman's final words.

Salih suggested that the Arabs, in addition to being united, apply pressure on political parties worldwide, especially leftist parties which support the Palestinians, the intifada and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation).

Other action suggested included:

—Formation of Christian committees to study the Jewish torah.

—Support of all sectors of the occupied territories.

—Opposition of U.S. acts against Palestine.

—Preservation of Arab-Palestinian culture.

—Cooperation with Jewish committees for withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Editorial Views UN Scrutiny of Airbus Incident
JN1307110088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "What Is a Little Bit of Pride?"]

[Text] For all practical purposes all accusing fingers pointed to Iran when the United Nations Security Council adopted an American-initiated resolution one year ago calling for an immediate end to the protracted Iran-Iraq war.

This week, almost on the day of the resolution's first anniversary, the roles are reversed: It is the U.S. on the docks before the Security Council, and the accuser is Iran, over the downing by an American warship of an Iranian airliner.

Strangely enough, or perhaps more ironically, it is the same Iran which is now seeking Security Council action over its complaint after continuously refusing to abide by the world body's decisions and almost boycotting it.

While there is no disputing the fact that the Iranians do have a strong case before the Council and that there could be no easy escape for the Americans from blame for the attack on a civilian airliner with the loss of 290 lives, one cannot but wonder whether this week's U.N. debate would have been necessary had Tehran responded positively to Resolution 598.

At the same time, the possibility is very distinct that the Iranians may be considering the Security Council debate over the American attack on its airliner as a litmus test of the world body's neutrality and sense of justice. All signals from Tehran indicate that the Iranian leaders could just be inching towards an acceptance of international norms of behaviour and respect for international codes of conduct.

Such a change in attitude, which is a prerequisite for any negotiated settlement to the Gulf war, can only be brought about by a serious, thorough and objective review of the airliner case before he Security Council. But, all hopes for a negotiated settlement will recede further if the United States uses its clout as a superpower and preempts any meaningful action by the Council.

The only way Washington can substantiate its declared aim of peace in the Gulf is through a magnanimous gesture of subjecting its actions in the region to fair scrutiny by the Security Council. After all, what is a little bit of pride when it comes to a question of defusing a massive powderkeg in a volatile region?

Israelis Continue Search of Hizballah Stronghold

NC1407171288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Israeli Army today continued their search of a Hizballah stronghold south of the Al-Biqa' Valley where an Israeli soldier and a fundamentalist were killed yesterday.

It was learned that approximately 100 Israeli soldiers and 10 military vehicles crossed the security strip area and penetrated 5 km north toward Jabal al-Dahr, which overlooks western Al-Biqa' and the Rashayya region, where Syrian forces are deployed.

The Israeli forces combed three hills in the region, which they entered after 30 minutes of artillery shelling of the sector between Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah at noon today. Shells also fell on Libbaya, Qilya, and Zillaya villages. A security source said nine Katyusha rockets fell on the Israeli positions in Kawkaba last night.

The Israeli forces have withdrawn from Libbaya and its hills, where the bodies of three Hizballah fighters were found. They are Husayn Ahmad Huriyah, Muhammad Ahmad al-Khatib, and Muhammad Bujayji, the commander of the Libbaya sector. The people could not evacuate the bodies because of planted Israeli mines.

Reinforcements Cross Into South

NC1507091688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, Israeli occupation forces have brought in reinforcements that have crossed the border in the Al-Tayyibah area heading in the direction of their assembly points in Ibil al-Saqi.

Palestinians Reinforce Positions in Sidon

NC1507115988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, a state of tension prevails between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians in East Sidon as the Palestinians reinforce their positions in the area. Amal has accused the Palestinians of preparing for a fresh attack on Maghdushah to link their lines between East Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Last night the Palestinians deployed a 150-man Palestinian security force around the Sidon camps. The commander of the force stated that this measure is designed to confront any potential inter-Palestinian fighting.

Sa'd Said Caught Between Syrians, 'Arafatists

NC1507072888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] An explosive charge went off outside the Al-Sa'iqah headquarters at the Mar Ilyas camp in West Beirut yesterday. A spokesman for the Al-Sa'iqah organization in Lebanon has accused the 'Arafatists of planting the charge and threatened to retaliate appropriately for these terrorist acts, as he put it.

Meanwhile, BEIRUT NEWS AGENCY has cited a parliamentary source as saying that the Syrians advised Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, during his recent visit to Damascus to make a final severing of relations with the 'Arafatists. Otherwise, they said, he will pay a dear price. However, Yasir 'Arafat has contacted Eng Sa'd to warn him that he will also pay a dear price if he abandons his supporters. 'Arafat reminded Sa'd that the large amounts of money and the huge quantities of arms in his possession have come from him personally.

This embarrassed Sa'd and put him in a difficult position. Thus, he contacted the Libyan leader who promised to deal with 'Arafat's threat on the grounds that the 'Arafatists are fully aware of the fact that the Syrian card in Lebanon is American and not Syrian, Arab, or international. Within this context, the agency noted, Sa'd made his visit to Damascus. There he met with Syrian officials who assured him that they will be in Sidon very soon to deal with the 'Arafatists.

Analyzing relations between Syria and the Palestinian organizations, a foreign news agency says that the ferocious verbal war between the two sides has resumed and put an end to the truce which was reached during 'Arafat's visit to Damascus on 25 April. The agency notes that the media campaigns of the two parties escalated after the pro-Syrian Abu Musa groups took control of the Palestinian camps in Beirut.

2 Syrian Posts Reportedly Attacked 15 Jul

NC1507053788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] According to a security report from western Al-Biqa', gunmen fired a number of rockets at two Syrian occupation forces posts in Rashayya al-Wadi at 0200 today, one near the Bayadir al-'Adas police station and the other in 'Azzah. The Syrians suffered a number of casualties.

Group Claims Attack Against Syrian Post

NC1507085088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at a Syrian occupation forces' post in the Al-Zaytunah district of West Beirut at 0300 today.

Paper Says U.S. Preparing for Aggression
JN1507065488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH comments on U.S.-Israeli relations. The paper says: The joint naval maneuvers between the United States and Israel are an introduction to serious violations by the United States.

When the United States announces that it is directly concerned with the Zionist entity's security, this alone is sufficient to make it participate in the bloody and hostile arrangements the Zionist leaders have made. Israel has many excuses to commit aggression before the end of this year.

The battles currently waged by the Palestinian popular uprising have removed the Zionist forces from the confrontation lines, and the Lebanese national resistance has succeeded in voiding the assumptions the Zionists have been marketing on the security of the Galilee settlements. Yesterday's battles are a prominent landmark demonstrating the Lebanese resistance's ability to carry out attacks and confrontation.

AL-BA'TH says: The United States had wagered that the uprising would not last and that the capitulatory plans and the U.S. diplomacy that had paved the way for these plans would affect the vigor of the uprising. However, the opoposite took place. Neither Abu Sharif's document nor George Shultz' tours influenced the uprising.

AL-BA'TH concludes: From this premise, the United States will resort to an action that will be similar to the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon, using many excuses that U.S. propaganda is currently promoting. Chief among these excuses is that the Arabs reject peace and that the Arabs are the stumbling block to stability in the region.

Radio Commentary Views 'Uprising,' 'Deviation'
JN1407152388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] We used to believe that the dens of deviation had vanished after they were overcome with feelings of shame which engulfed them when they saw the stone-throwing children facing the Israeli enemy's armored vehicles with their bare hands.

We also used to believe that those dens had been divested of any excuses for talking about their capitulatory course after the line pursued by Al- Sadat was met with unwavering Arab mass rejection everywhere and after the one pursuing this line met his well-known black fate.

However, and all of a sudden, the suspect call was voiced once again in a bid to take a short cut along the road that leads to a handshake with the enemy behind the uprising's back, to an acceptance of Israeli occupation, and also to the final destruction of the Palestinian cause, while running breathlessly after a settlement at any price.

This call is being voiced at a time when the uprising continues to escalate and also when the Arab climate is witnessing improvements in favor of the Pan-Arab cause following the convening of the Algiers summit.

What is behind this abnormal phenomenon which looks like a polluted cloud hovering over a heroic horizon in which the sun of martyrdom has risen in southern Lebanon and the Arab territory of Palestine? There is no doubt that there are only two schools of thought prevailing in the Arab arena. Each views the strategic and phased objectives of the Arab nation's struggle differently. Let us leave strategic objectives aside. Then, the phased pan-Arab objectives are well-known as they have been spelled out at the Arab summits.

Furthermore, they are well-known because they have been spelled out and formulated in the programs adopted by the political forces of the Arab masses. The most important phased objectives are securing the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing in fact the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost among which is their right to self-determination.

The question is: What are the means to achieve these phased objectives? The philosophy which was represented in the most impudent manner by Anwar al-Sadat proposed that 99 percent of the key to a solution is in U.S. hands and added that capitulation to Israel is the realistic stance which helps liberate the territories and regain the rights. However, the entire world currently knows that the accords signed by Al-Sadat have produced no peace, as the quantities of bloodshed following the signing of the Camp David accords were sufficient to fill rivers.

These rivers of blood were shed by Israel with U.S. protection. The preoccupation of the entire international community with the international Mideast peace conference is more evidence corroborating that what was undertaken by the United States, Israel, and Al-Sadat has not led to peace. Besides, Israel's occupation of all Palestinian territory, and of Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese territory shows that this trick has neither led to the liberation of territories nor to peace.

The one who recalls the provisions contained in the Camp David accords and the capitulation treaty which prevents Egypt from imposing its sovereignty on Sinai knows how much this tendency detracts from national sovereignty, independence, and dignity.

We believe there is no need for more talk about the traitor Al-Sadat's experience which the Arab masses know well, and they also know that the defeatist approach followed by Al-Sadat leads neither to the Arab nation's long-nor short-term objectives. The other approach calls for adherence to rights and struggle in all fields as well as to all means for achieving pan-Arab objectives, and for not relinquishing or ceding any of them. No single event in history indicates that occupiers or colonizers have given up land through their own will or desire, or as a result of speeches, sermons, or honeyed talk.

Algeria is an example. French colonization left its land only due to the effect of the victories of the Algerian revolution and the Algerian people's determination to attain freedom.

The United States left Vietnam only because of the Vietnamese people's blows and determination to liberate themselves regardless of sacrifices. In Syria, our recent history indicates that the colonizers yielded territory and rights only by struggle and rejection of all forms of concessions, defeatism, and surrender.

Syria believed in this approach and made sacrifices for its sake in the Arab world. As part of this approach, Syria, under its leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad, voiced the call for strategic parity with the Israeli enemy.

Syria also believes that without such a balance, without wrenching the option of military pressure from Israel, one cannot expect the appropriate circumstances to emerge for the achievement of a just peace guaranteeing the restoration of the occupied land and usurped rights.

The Arab masses have always supported this approach. Emerging from the heart of this approach, the continued uprising in the occupied territory demonstrates to what extent the Palestinian masses reject defeatism, surrender, and bargains over land and rights. The difference between both approaches is obvious and needs no clarification.

It is also completely clear that concession leads only to concession and cannot prompt the enemy to yield rights and territory. This is not a new invention or discovery; our experiences, the history of peoples, and the annals of colonizers and occupiers are full of examples.

It is odd that those who claim to be the holders of the cause take their seats in the train of bargains and concessions. It is odder still that their vile voices are raised at a time when the masses of the occupied land are waging their historic battle against Israeli occupation. The Palestinian stone-throwers have developed a direct confrontation with the most ferocious weapons of the Israeli occupation and have decided with determination to shake the land under occupation.

Yet now some in the Palestinian leadership deviate from the uprising line to offer concessions for free, begging negotiations between the triumphant and the vanquished and between the strong and the weak, ignoring the fact that that the enemy, with all its trends, may differ in many matters but it is unanimous about rejecting withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination.

The advocates of defeat and surrender and those immersed in the quagmire of compromises must know that the convoy of the uprising is marching ahead, trampling underfoot the course of deviation and forcing its way ahead with blood, never meeting with those who dream of deals or those panting behind settlements. Definitely, there is no place for a new Al-Sadat.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks at Military Awards Ceremony

LD1307233688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at an awards ceremony for Army personnel on 13 July in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan, as you heard in tonight's news bulletin, esteemed Najibullah, Afghan president, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Afghan Armed Forces, presented badges and medals at a glorious ceremony today to those men of the country's Armed Forces who displayed merit in the defense of the country's territorial integrity and progress in realizing the policy of national reconciliation.

This morning around 1030, Esteemed Najibullah, with Muhammad Rafi', 'Abdul Wahed Sorabi, and 'Abdulhamid Mohtat, vice presidents; Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security; Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee; and Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, went to the gathering place of those men of the units and companies of the Armed Forces who were to receive the badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan, where he inspected the honor guard.

After the persident's decree on presenting badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan to those men of the units and companies of the Armed Forces who displayed merit in accomplishing their duties and restoring peace and calmness in the country was read, esteemed Najibullah presented the badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan to the soldiers.

Esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation, went to Delkosha Palace and took part in the session of soldiers of the Afghan Armed Forces, which was convened for this occasion.

The work of the session began after the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran. [passage omitted]

[Najibullah] Friends, brothers, and heroic soldiers: Allow me to express my profound and warmest greetings and best wishes on the occasion of this formidable self-sacrifice and heroism you and your colleagues displayed in the struggle to safeguard the country's independence, restore security for the people, and realize the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation. [applause]

The people are proud of you—the genuine sons of the homeland.

Dear soldiers, our gathering today is taking place at a time when 1 and ½ years have elapsed since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. The world public has been amazed by your victories during this period.

During this time, 142,000 of our refugee compatriots returned to the homeland; the nationwide conference of the PDPA was convened; the historic Grand Assembly was held; the country's first constitution was transformed to a constitution of peace and reconciliation; the president of the Republic of Afghanistan was elected; and direct and secret election took place in the country, in full conformity with the Constitution and on the basis of equal rights of all subjects of the country of all nationalities. For the first time, the right to take part in the election for the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan was given to the Armed Forces of the country.

Dear brothers, (?the heroism) of every military man, in particular the heroic men of our beloved homeland—Afghanistan—is a cause of pride for me and my comrades, and not only for us but for every (?individual) in our country. It is natural that you defend [words indistinct] the country with devotion and self-sacrifice, defend the Republic, the freedom, the independence, and the territorial integrity of the country. You defend the honor of the misery-stricken people of Afghanistan.

You defend the legitimate right of every human being, that is to say, the right to life. You defend the national reconciliation. When I see your faces I see the courageous and self-sacrificing sons of Afghanistan who are defending the homeland and the peaceful life of our compatriots; those who by sacrificing their lives, save the children, women, and elders of our country from the deadly [word indistinct] of the mercenary murderers.

I say emphatically that becoming a soldier is not an easy and simple task under the present difficult conditions and not everyone can perform this task. Only the courageous and fully determined person and an individual with high morals can fulfill the responsibility of this task. Only those who do not know anything else accept the interest of the country and the people. You, in particular, are such sons and faithful heirs of our proud fathers and ancestors.

Yes, it is fate that we and you are experiencing difficult and formidable tests, and you have successfully and heroically come out of these difficult tests. Therefore, all the people, including children, youths, and elders, love you and all the sons of our heroic Army from the bottom of their heart. Not only do they love you, but they sincerely respect you. Not only do they respect you, but they are proud of you. Every day you will come to believe this.

Three factors determine our political life: [words indistinct] multiparty system and coalition forms the new political system, and the implementation of Geneva accords.

As far as the new political formation is concerned, we can say that this system is in its final stage. Although a new coalition system, as a living organism or living body, continuously grows and becomes perfected, the major process of its formation is passing. My objective is the revival of parliamentary activities in the country and the creation of the new Cabinet of Ministers headed by esteemed Sharq, as well as formation of the apparatus and the machinery of the Presidency.

The first session of the Milli Shura, which lasted for several days, ended successfully. The country has not seen such a brilliant manifestation of democracy. The people's delegates spoke openly and freely about whatever subject interested them. I emphasize that they spoke openly and freely.

For the first time in the history of parliament in our country, this credible tribune—the highest legislative organ of the country—was transformed into a genuine tribune of the people and representative of the people.

This is a cause for pleasure. It shows that the people's representatives, that is, the delegates and senators, are not indifferent to what goes on in the country. I must say to you that when elections began for the Milli Shura, some said that the elected parliament would not be a national parliament, but a show and a government's parliament, and a parliament linked with only one party, that is, the PDPA. However, it proved otherwise, and perhaps you have heard all the proceedings of the first session. In the parliament there was stated severe criticism, even addressed to the PDPA. But this does not upset us. The most important fact is that parliament strongly expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation, which has been pursued by the PDPA.

Parliament demands from us and all political forces, indeed all Afghans, undeviating movement forward in this regard. You may have studied the material about the conclusion of the first session of the Milli Shura in the press. When I spoke about the stand of the alliance of seven leaders to create a confederation between Afghanistan with Pakistan, I asked the members of the Milli Shura if they would allow such a thing. All members of parliament answered resolutely in one voice, saying no, we will never allow this. This is the voice of our nation and we are proud of such a parliament.

Pakistan, the United States, and the Western mass media spread poisonous propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan. They claim a variety of things and shamelessly declare that the so-called mujahidin are achieving great successes every day. First, they say they captured Qandahar city, and then they say they seized Jalalabad, Zabol, and other cities. Those comrades who are present here from Zabol and Qandahar see with their own eyes that our heroic Armed Forces have taught them such lessons that even their imperialist masters sit in mourning because of this fatal defeat. [applause]

Gulbuddin and Eng Ahmad Shah, these so-called leaders who sold out to the United States and Pakistan, intend to sell the unitary and free country of our ancestors to Pakistan. They shamelessly state that if they take power, the people of Pakistan could enter Afghanistan freely without passport and visa. This is their sinister plan, the selling out of our beloved homeland to foreigners and eliminating the national and historical identity of our beloved homeland, Afghanistan. Ziaul Haq shamelessly announces that he hopes to perform prayers of thanks in Kabul together with mujahidin. Will you, brave soldiers of the homeland, heroic sons of the homeland, allow our homeland to be sold? [crowd responds "No"]

We are proud of such soldiers, and thus we announce to all our enemies that their intentions will not be realized. Anyone who looks toward our fatherland with evil eyes will not be left with any eyes at all. [applause]

The people trust in you brave soldiers and in all personnel of the Armed Forces. I believe that you are defending the homeland, the revolution, and national reconciliation. We believe in our people and even if there is one Afghan left, we will defend the independence and the fatherland and will not surrender to the enemy.

Dear soldiers, the Geneva accords, the conclusion of which our people awaited impatiently, were signed 14 April 1988. As a result of this great political success, the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union has begun to return to their great peace-loving country. More than 35,000 Soviet internationalists have returned to their country. At present, there are no Soviet military contingents in 18 provinces of the country. The Soviet soldiers sincerely accomplished their internationalist duty.

The grateful Afghan people, including the personnel of the Armed Forces, are saying farewell with bunches of flowers to their comrades-in-arms. Their heroic memories will live forever in the hearts of our people. Tomorrow you will meet your comrades-in-arms, the internationalist soldiers. The people of Afghanistan will look after the friendship tree of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union that was watered with the joint blood of the soldiers of both countries. [applause]

Two months have elapsed since the enforcement of the Geneva accords. The Afghan and Soviet sides have sincerely observed them. We have taken all possible measures for receiving refugees. We have announced demilitarized zones at the borders with Pakistan for the fearless return of our compatriots, in respect for their traditions and customs. We have formed peace camps and guest houses. We have allocated great amounts of money for feeding and transporting the refugees.

However, so far the Geneva accords have not been observed by Pakistan or the United States. Interference from Pakistani soil continues. Opposition and extremist groups are armed there and infiltrated into our country.

They have formed a so-called interim government under an unknown person in the name of Engineer Ahmad Shah at the territory of Pakistan. No one inside the country or the refugees accept this government-in-name. Armed interference in the internal affairs of our country is continuing. It is not only continuing, but has intensified. The extremists of the opposition have not ended resistance and armed struggle. The extremists are engaged in savage crimes against peaceful people.

I met Mr Cordovez some while ago and in the course of the meeting I spoke to him about Pakistan breaching the Geneva accords. In these conditions, in the condition of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the increasing foreign interference, fresh tasks come up before our heroic Armed Forces in defending the Republic.

The Saratan [June-July] of 1367 plenum of the PDPA Central Committee addressed the question of the armed defense of the Republic of Afghanistan. We comprehensively assessed this question in the plenum. I would like to point out that on the eve of the plenum, all members of the Central Committee visited the units and companies of the Armed Forces and spoke to soldiers, officers, and generals. Therefore, it could be confidently stated that the plenum reflected the collective wisdom of our military men. The plenum set forth specific tasks before the Armed Forces.

I would like to enumerate the most outstanding of these tasks: strengthening the defense capability of the country; being able to conduct independent combat operations; and maintaining reliable defense of the capital and provincial and district centers. We have begun consolidating the defense of Kabul. However, this is only the beginning. We still must strengthen the protection of highways, communications, air fields, national economic centers, schools, hospitals, etc, and decisively defeat the extremist part of the opposition, and help to receive and rehabilitate the refugees. As you can see, these tasks are not simple and easy, however, their solution is fully possible.

To carry out these tasks we should consistently strengthen the Armed Forces, starting with the Army, to enhance military discipline and vigilance, and improve party and educational work. We are usually asked whether the Afghan Armed Forces have the ability to defend the Republic after the return of the Soviet forces. We have every reason to say: Yes, our heroic Armed Forces have the ability. The Armed Forces should defend the Republic of Afghanistan. They will carry out this order of their people and history with pride. [applause]

In talking to you, I remember an example from our proud history: the second Afghan-British war. It should be said that the present situation somewhat reminds us of the events of the second Afghan-British war in 1880. At that time, the British (?drafted) a plan to divide Afghanistan. Under this plan they intended to create a separate subservient government in Qandahar. The same dream is being dreamed today. The Armed Forces of Afghanistan stood up to defend the homeland's territorial integrity. From a total of 12,000 Britons, only 25 survived because they were (?wearing) Afghan national costumes.

This is our history's pride, and we have no right to forget it. Our enemies should know that they are again facing the sons of those same fathers, whose blood flows in the veins of these youths and proud soldiers. [applause] Our enemies, especially the enemies of our homeland and the enemies of our soil, should learn from history. Otherwise they will learn other exemplary lessons.

Dear soldiers, with the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, the situation in the country changed radically. The party and the state are paying increased attention to the Armed Forces. The law on military conscription has been approved, and this has reduced the term of military service. Salaries and other privileges of Armed Forces personnel have improved. Military [word indistinct] has been organized to improve the material welfare of the Armed Forces personnel and their families. The structure of the Armed Forces has also been improved. New commands and units have been created.

A total of 31 members of the Armed Forces, including 5 soldiers, have received the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan, and 14 units received the title of Hero Unit. We are always examining issues concerning the enhancement of combat readiness and the living standards of the Armed Forces personnel at sessions of the Politburo, the Defense Council, and the headquarters of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. Our soldiers, NCO's, and officers of the Armed Forces will continue to enjoy our care.

Dear soldiers, in the future too we will make every effort to strengthen the Armed Forces because they are the mainstay of our state. We will search for all possibilities to transform our Army into the beloved army of our people.

Party detachments are being formed in the country from among the members of the PDPA to provide objective help to the Armed Forces. Serious measures have been adopted on the matter of conscription. Everyone will fulfill his military service because this is the sacred duty of every citizen of our country. Those who hide themselves from conscription have no right to call themselves Afghan, man, or Muslim. [passage omitted]

Friends, comrades-in-arms, when you return to your units, convey the fervent greetings of myself and my comrades to all your friends and tell them of our meeting. I wish you and your esteemed families health,

prosperity, and great success. Take pride in being the hero servicemen of the Republic of Afghanistan! With one voice we say that we will be victorious! Thank you. [applause]

Violation Notices Submitted to UNGOMAP

47th, 48th Violation Notices

LD1407222688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 13, BAKHTAR—The 47th and 48th notices of the Republic of Afghanistan on five cases of flagrant violations of the second article of the first document of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan were submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] here today.

The notices gave all-sided information on the violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and requested the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general of the results.

49th Violation Notice

LD1407222788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's office for coordination with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that the Republic of Afghanistan's 49th memorandum on Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP mission in Kabul this afternoon.

The memorandum gives comprehensive information on a number of blatant violations by Paksitan of Article 2, Document No 1 of the Geneva accords. Under the terms of paragraph seven of Document No 4 of the Geneva accords, UNGOMAP has been asked to assess the information contained in the memorandum and to report the results to the Republic of Afghanistan and to the representative of the UN secretary general.

Mujahidin Capture 5 Soviet Soldiers 13 Jul

BK1407155388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 14 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin captured five Soviet soldiers when they ambushed a withdrawing column on the Qandahar-Kabul highway, the rebel-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Thursday.

The mujahidin attacked the column Wednesday when it reached the rebel-controlled Qarah Bagh area in southern Ghazni Province, AIP said.

There was a "fierce battle" and the guerrillas seized a military vehicle and captured five Soviet soldiers, it said. Soviet planes resorted to reprisal raids and in heavy bombing destroyed several villages, the agency said, without giving casualty figures.

Moscow intends pulling out about 10,000 troops from the troubled Qandahar region by mid-August.

Official Soviet figures released last month said there were 313 Soviet soldiers missing in action in Afghanistan.

Guerrilla sources confirm "many" Soviet soldiers have been made prisoners of war in the nine year Afghan conflict.

The rebels' seven-party alliance said Wednesday it had agreed to discuss the prisoners' issue if the Soviet Union opened direct negotiations with the mujahidin parties. Moscow has not yet reacted to the offer.

The mujahidin had earlier vowed not to return the POWs until the last Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan. They said they would keep the Soviet prisoners to swap with Afghan communists who might try to seek asylum in the Soviet Union.

'Extremist Gang' 'Crushed' by Armed Forces

LD1407201188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Armed Forces, continuing to discharge their duty, recently crushed an armed criminal extremist gang belonging to the Guldbuddin band, in Vardak Province.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, during this combat operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the local inhabitants, 20 of the irreconcilable extremists were killed, including their ringleader Lal Muhammad. A quantity of ammunition and weapons belonging to the warmongering extremists, which had been transported from the Ebrahim Khel region to the Nerkh area of Vardak Province, was destroyed by the Armed Forces.

According to another report from Qandahar Province, as a result of clearing Qandahar Province of the irreconcilable extremists, Sayfoddin, son of Lal Muhammad who was one of the ringleaders of the Golbuddin band, and three members of his group were arrested. Two camels loaded with weapons and ammunition belonging to these criminals were seized by the country's Armed Forces.

According to another report from Samangan Province, two extremist groups who had attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in Ru'i and Do Ab districts of Samangan province were crushed by the Armed Forces yesterday.

As a result of this combat operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the district's inhabitants, Taj Muhammad and Muhammad Yaqub, ringleaders of the extremists, and another eight men were killed

and four were arrested. A recoilless gun, a mortar, two light machineguns, and a [word indistinct] were seized. Two DShk's, a mortar, and a recoilless gun, together with an ammunition dump belonging to the extremists, were destroyed.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture 2 More Posts

BK1507024888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have captured two more posts of the Kabul regime between Qandahar and Ghazni. The mujahidin gained full control of the two barracks of (Makoro) and Shadian on the Ghazni-Qandahar highway on the 9th of this month. Reports from Kabul indicate that reinforcements were sent from Qandahar to help the Kabul regime forces, but the mujahidin attacked the convoy from their mountainous hideouts and forced the Kabul forces to retreat.

The mujahidin also control Shadian, 30 km southeast of (Makoro). The garrison of the Kabul regime's secret police, Khad, situated in the mountainous region near (Qasba) was under siege and the mujahidin captured this garrison on the 9th of this month.

35 Rebels Killed in Nangarhar Province

LD1307212588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] A number of armed extremists were crushed recently in Nangarhar Province. According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, as a result of an operation by the Armed Forces, 35 armed extremist elements, including Mola Jan and Nur Mohammad, two criminal ringleaders of the extremists, were killed and their weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

Bangladesh

Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

BK1407155888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister of Cyprus Yeoryios Iakovou arrived in Dhaka today on a 2-day visit to Bangladesh. He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Mr Iakovou told newsmen at the airport that his talks with the Bangladesh foreign minister will cover all areas of mutual interest. He expressed hope that exchange of views on different matters will help further strengthen the existing cordial ties between the two countries.

The visit of Mr Iakovou is the first by a foreign minister of Cyprus to this country.

Meets With Foreign Minister

BK1507043488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Bangladesh and Cyprus have held talks covering all issues of mutual interest in bilateral and international fields. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and visiting Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou led their respective delegations at the talks held in Dhaka yesterday.

They discussed in detail the current international scenario and agreed to enhance their concerted efforts for lessening of global tension and promotion of world peace and security. The two sides also explored areas for further cooperation between them.

Official sources say the two foreign ministers have also discussed about the forthcoming meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau which will be held in Nicosia in September next.

'Tribals' in India Reportedly Eager To Return

BK1307164888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The foreign secretary says a vast majority of tribal refugees, now in the Indian state of Tripura, are very keen to return home, following significant improvement in the condition in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. This sentiment was conveyed by the refugees, when a Bangladesh delegation led by High Commissioner to New Delhi Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury visited the refugee camps in Tripura yesterday and the day before.

Speaking about the outcome of the visit of the Bangladesh delegation, Mr Nazrul Islam said in Dhaka the refugees were convinced about the conducive atmosphere in the hill districts of Chittagong, as the government had taken necessary steps in this regard. The delegation, that included a number of prominent tribal leaders from Chittagong, met a number of refugees in groups and also visited the refugee camps there.

The foreign secretary said while refugees were very keen to return to their homes, the delegation noted that a handful of Shanti Bahini [Army of Peace] extremists harassed the refugees and prevented them from returning home. The high commissioner and the other members of the delegation apprised the refugees of the steps taken by the government to ensure peace, security, and dignity to the tribals and protect and promote their ethnic, religious, and cultural ways of life.

The foreign secretary said only a handful of extremists were causing obstruction to their return. In fact, he said, many refugees told the Bangladesh delegation that they are being prevented by the members of the Shanti Bahini from returning to their homes in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation pointed out this to the accompanying Indian officials.

Bangladesh hopes that latest initiatives will help the ongoing process of peace and expedite the return of refugees and that all of them will return to Bangladesh in the near future. During his stay in Agartala, Mr Faruq Chowdhury met Tripura chief minister, Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, and chief secretary, I.P. Gupta.

They expressed their full satisfaction at the interest and anxiety of Bangladesh Government in bringing its nationals back home. The Bangladesh delegation has now returned home.

India

U.S. Embassy Denies Submarine Sale to Pakistan

BK1407051388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The United States has denied reports of the proposed sale of U.S. nuclear submarines to Pakistan. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi in a statement said that reports in the Pakistani press suggesting such a sale are untrue and wrong.

Communist Leader Warns U.S. on Aid to Pakistan

BK1307071488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] A member of the banned Communist Party of Pakistan, Mr Jam Saqi, warned the United States that its support to the Ziaul Haq regime may compel the people of the country to adopt some other course for restoration of democracy.

Addressing a meeting organized by the Pakistan People's Party in London last week, Mr Jam Saqi said that the military rulers of the country may indulge in some adventure on the Indian borders to retain power.

Asked about Pakistan's help to the terrorists in Punjab, he said the seizure of the pistol from the hijackers of an Indian plane was a clear proof.

Forward Bloc Leader on Talks With PRC Leaders

BK1407093988 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 6 Jul 88 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, 5 July (Special Correspondent)—China has said it is willing to consider upgrading [the on-going official level] talks with India on the border dispute to a higher political level, if this proposal comes directly from the Indian Government.

The Chinese leaders gave this assurance to a Forward Bloc delegation that visited China for 2 weeks. The delegation was led by the member of parliament and party's general secretary, Mr Chitta Basu. Delegation members had met with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 17 June prior to their departure for China.

When the Forward Bloc leaders proposed that the on-going official level talks to solve the border dispute between the two countries be upgraded, the Chinese leaders expressed their willingness to consider it if such a proposal came from the Indian Government.

Mr Chitta Basu told newsmen here today after his return from China 3 days ago that the Chinese leaders have reiterated that all bilateral issues including the border dispute could be solved peacefully. They added that the border dispute should not obstruct the path of mutual exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture, and trade.

A distinguished leader of the CPC Central Committee Politburo commended [Indian freedom movement leader] Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for sending an Indian medical mission on behalf of the president of the Congress Party during the Japanese aggression in 1938.

During the talks with the Forward Bloc delegation it was decided that the CPC International Department and the Chinese Social Science Academy will jointly sponsor an indepth study on the life of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The study will also evaluate Netaji's contribution towards liberating China from the colonial yoke.

The CPC also decided to establish party to party relations with the Forward Bloc. So far the CPC has similar relations only with the CPI and the CPI-M. The Forward Bloc invited the CPC to send its delegation to India as soon as possible. The Forward Bloc also invited the CPC to send a delegation to its party congress in 1990.

The Forward Bloc was also apprised of the recent political and economic changes in China, but the party wants more time to give its clear view on the subject. The party's Central Committee will soon hold a detailed discussion on this subject.

Dhaka Tries To Internationalize Bilateral Issues

BK1307042988 Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jul 88 p 4

[From the "Comment" column: "Dhaka's Stand"]

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, it seems, is trying to internationalise the bilateral issues between India and Bangladesh. On 4 July, Mr Chowdhury told the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] that the outstanding problems with India could be referred to international forums if these could not be solved through bilateral discussions.

The main problems between the two countries, as outlined by him, include the waters of the rivers shared by the two countries, agreement on the Tin Bigha corridor, demarcation of maritime boundary and the Talpatty Island. Obviously, Mr Chowdhury does not consider the question of repatriation of Chakma tribals as an issue between Bangladesh and India. How does one explain Bangladesh's renewed bid to internationalise the essentially bilateral questions as it once did by raising the Farakka issue in the United Nations? Two factors seem to account for this.

The military regime is trying to distract public attention from its own domestic political difficulties at a time when General H.M. Ershad's Islamisation move has come under severe attack from several quarters. General Ershad may be thinking that stridency will fetch him additional concessions from India as it happened earlier when New Delhi agreed to involve Nepal in the formulation of schemes for augmenting the flow of Ganga waters. Similarly, on the question of transfer of Berubari enclave and Talpatty Island to India in exchange for Tin Bigha corridor, Dhaka has been delaying a conclusion.

For example, when there was some delay in the transfer of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh in the wake of certain constitutional difficulties, Bangladesh created an unnecessary fuss. Mr Chowdhury, for instance, said in March last year that a joint survey was being carried out to determine the ownership of the Talpatty Island.

Afterwards, he changed his statement and said that the island belonged to Bangladesh and transfer of the same was unconstitutional. It does not take great political wisdom to realise that Dhaka is trying to ingratiate itself with the regional and international forces which do not wish India well. First it tried to bring Nepal into the bilateral issue. Now it would like China to be involved in the matter.

Tamil Nadu Governor on Steps To End Strike

BK1407091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government has approached the Center for promulgating an Essential Services Maintenance Order to deal with the 3-week-old strike by the state government employees and teachers.

Speaking to newsmen in Trichirappalli, the state governor, Mr Alexander, said the government's immediate concern is to maintain law and order. The government is continuing talks with the employees organizations to end the strike.

Venkataraman Meets With Mongolian Officials

For MONTSAME and Delhi coverage of Indian President Venkataraman's visit to Mongolia, including meetings with National Assembly Chairman Jambyn Batmonh and Prime Minister Dumaagyn Sodnom, see the Mongolia section of the 14 July East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Iran

Velayati Address to UN Security Council

LD1407202588 Tehran IRNA in English 1944 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] U.N. (New York), July 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his speech here Thursday to the special session of the Security Council to debate the July 3 U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf, said the council cannot but condemn the U.S. for its unjustified shooting down of a passenger airliner, which killed all 290 people on board.

"Anything less than such a clear position of condemnation would be a clear show of disrespect for human life and the innocent people on board including over 100 women and children" who were criminally massacred by the U.S. said Velayati.

Calling the U.S. crime "an outrageous and clear illustration of moral bankruptcy of policy-makers in Washington", he urged the Security Council to take a more serious and objective look at this grave threat to international peace and security, and compel the United States and other foreign forces to leave the Persian Gulf.

Anything less would be a further evasion of responsibility by the Security Council, "an evasion which cannot be forgiven under the present circumstances and after the tragic massacre of innocent passengers of Iran Air flight 655", he added.

The plane an Airbus A-300 was flying on a scheduled flight using the internationally established and published Amber 59 airway that is used at least 14 times a week, 5 of which between the same two airports (Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy), when it was criminally shot down by the cruiser the USS Vincennes, killing all on board.

The Iranian foreign minister played to the U.N body the whole transcript of communication between Tehran, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Dubayy and the pilot of the ill-fated Airbus A-300, which vividly illustrated the details of communication before the tragedy.

The transcript played to the U.N. body accurately detailed the conversation between Iran Air flight 655 and the Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy airports until it was abruptly cut off—at 10:24 hrs local time 7 minutes after take-off when missiles fired by the USS Vincennes, exploded the Airbus in mid-air.

Velayati pointed to the Security Council that seconds after the last communication between the plane and the tower, it was targeted by "two surface-to-air standard guided missiles from USS Vincennes, the most technologically sophisticated naval ship. It was shot down in approximate coordinates of 2643 North and 5603 East, over the territorial sea of the Islamic Republic of Iran and plane was shot [as received] when it was at the center line of Amber 59 airway".

"Based on these easily verifiable facts, USS Vincennes had well over 14 minutes—and not 4 minutes as American officials have claimed—of prior knowledge that the target was a civilian airliner on a scheduled flight from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy", he added.

Describing the USS Vincennes' action as "a terribly cowardice judgment" the result of an arrogant and aggressive U.S. policy, Velayati took up each and every claim coming out of Washington to cover-up the unmanly crime, and disproved them one by one.

Following are excerpts from his speech:

Claim that Iran Air flight 644 was descending: In his briefing on Sunday July 3, 1988, Admiral Crowe claimed:

"We do have indications that the people on the ship were led to believe that the aircraft was not only on steady bearing but that it had gone up in altitide and was decreasing in altitude as it neared the ship."

However, admission by another American warship destroyed the foundations of the seemeingly invincible argument of the top military leader of the United States. According to THE WASHINGTON POST of July 5, 1988:

"The Pentagon received an after-action report from another ship (USS Sides) in the region which reported that the Iranian aircraft was ascending before it was hit".

Mr. President, let us now turn briefly to the American claim that Flight 655 was off course.

Admiral Crowe claimed after the tragedy that "the suspected aircraft was flying outside the prescribed commercial air corridor."

However, THE WASHINGTON POST of July 6, 1988 reported that behind the public relations campaign of misinformation conducted by American leaders, privately they had admitted that even their story on the deviation of the plane from its routine corridor was a deliberate fabrication, quoting House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin:

"Pentagon officials told House leaders in a briefing yesterday that the Iranian aircraft was not outside the commercial aircraft corridor as originally reported by Crowe on Sunday."

Under the circumstances, when the lives of 290 innocent passengers were so savagely and tragically taken, the minimum degree of human decency and integrity compels the culprit to reflect certain degree of remorse. However, the world witnessed the arrogance, indifference and the campaign of lies in the first reaction of the American Administration, whose sole purpose was to justify this barbaric act at any cost.

Claim that Iran Air Flight 655 was not transmitting appropriate signals: Another story which was fabricated to misguide the international public opinion was the claim by the United States officials that the airliner was not transmitting appropriate signals.

Admiral Crowe claimed on July 3, 1988, "there were electronic indications on Vincennes that led it to believe that the aircraft was an F-14..."

After information from other sources had made it clear that Flight 655 had been transmitting appropriate civilian signals, the Defence Department changed its story, claiming that mixed signals were being transmitted by the aircraft. The Defence Department spokesman Mr Howard said on July 5, 1988:

"The Iranian aircraft was using its IFF system in two modes. It was squawking on Mode-3 which is used... for both military and civilian aircraft. It was also sending signals on the military more [as received] Mode-2."

At the same time, other officials of the same department were telling another story in the U.S. Congress. THE NEW YORK TIMES of July 6, 1988, quoting Congressmen Les Aspin reports:

"Pentagon officials were not certain whether both sets of signals had come fron the civilian aircraft. He said officials acknowledged under questioning that it was possible that the military signal had come from another airplane."

And finally, descrediting the cover-up story of non-existent of mixed signals, THE WASHINGTON POST reported in its July 6, 1988 issue:

"The frigate sides operating near the Vincennes picked up only transmission from Airbus' Mode-3 channel, however, and had no indication of transmission on the military frequency."

Notwithstanding the fact that the Iranian Air Force had no F-14 operations in the morning of that unfortunate Sunday in or around the Strait of Hormuz, it may be noted that military experts well familiar with F-14 and its capabilities have held that F-14 could not have presented any serious danger to the USS Vincennes or any surface target for that matter.

F-14 fighters, as it should be known most vividly to the Americans who made them, are designed for air-to-air attack and not air to surface operations. Quoting "an executive in the aerospace industry" THE NEW YORK TIMES of July 7, 1988, reported:

"The only thing an F-14 could drop on the ground or water would be a dumb bomb. In aviation terms, a 'dumb bomb' is one that lacks the guidance mechanism of a missile and can hit its target only if well aimed by the pilot in the plane."

Claim that Iran Air Flight 655 did not respond to warnings: Possibly the most fallacious argument of the American officials in justifying their inexplicable crime

was a claim that the airliner did not respond to the alleged warnings issued by the warship. Admiral Crowe said in his press briefing of July 3, 1988:

"A warning was sent on both military and civilian distress frequencies beginning at 10:49 AM. This procedure was repeated several times, but the aircraft never answered nor changed her course."

While every available evidence including the transcripts read earlier show that the pilot of the airliner did not receive any warning, many have contended that in such a short and routine flight, the pilot was not indeed required to monitor the emergency civilian frequency.

Furthermore, because the ship failed to identify the target of its alleged warnings, the pilot of the airliner of a scheduled flight should not have reasonably taken as directed against himself [as received]. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES of July 6, 1988:

"Officials at International Civil Aviation Organization said the agency calls for commercial airlines pilots to monitor the civilian frequency only on flights over long stretches of water or over remote areas like Arctic. The 125 mile flight Sunday over the Strait of Hormuz would not have fit in that category."

Let us against all odds and for the sake of argument give credence to the United States claim that the passenger plane did not respond to the warnings by USS Vincennes—warnings which after one year of persistent harassments have become routine.

However, according to accepted principles of international civil aviation, flights inside flight information region of a country can only be directed by civil aviation authorities of that country. Furthermore, what legal or moral authority sanctions the missile attack against that civilian airliner which according to the established principles was not even required to monitor the frequency.

Also the amount of effort made by the warship to warn the airliner has been seriously questioned, because for instance as THE WASHINGTON POST of July 5, 1988, argues:

"It was not clear why the ship did not use the same civilian frequency on which the plane's pilot had communicated to Bandar-e 'Abbas."

Claim the airliner was descending onto the ship in a war zone: Finally the most awkward American explanation for shooting down a civilian airliner was presented by Admiral Crowe who claimed that the plane was coming onto the USS Vincennes in a war zone, while descending and increasing speed of 450 miles an hour.

It is necessary to note that the area where the plane was attacked is well outside the declared war zones of the combatants. This fact is attested to even by 'Lloyds of London'. Furthermore, as the U.S. Administration—due to internal considerations—has not declared an area in the Persian Gulf as a war zone, the logic of the American justification becomes even more erroneous.

Moreover, from the stand point of international civil aviation, the area is not considered a war zone. The claim is substantiated by all existing "Notams". It is for the same reason that even now, Amber-1 air corridor way which passes through the same area is one of the most active air corridors in the region, which is used by tens of carriers including American aircraft on daily basis.

The question that needs to be asked is why a warship positioned itself right at the center of a civilian airway. Positioning itself right in the middle of an international civil airway, it is ironic that the ship expected the plane to go outside of the corridor.

Therefore the U.S. excuse that its sophisticated warship allegedly failed to distinguish between an Airbus and an F-14, should absolutely not be taken seriously.

The question that needs to be asked is whether one should not expect more severe incidents caused by other less sophisticated U.S. warships in the area. When the most sophisticated U.S. warship panics over the remote possibility of the existance of an F-14 which in any case as we discussed could not pose a serious threat to a surface target, and goes on a shooting spree against an unidentified target, should we not expect less-sophisticated warships to mistake commercial jets smaller than the Airbus for fighter jets probably larger than the F-14? Are we not simply waiting for more tragedies to happen and more innnocent lives to be lost?

The Iranian foreign minister ended his speech by saying that failure of the Security Council to take effective action against this "most vivid manifestation of wanton disregard for civilian lives can never be justified and will remain as a total disgrace in the history of the council."

UK 'Reservations' on EC Airbus Statement Noted

LD1507084288 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 15, IRNA—The Foreign Office in London has confirmed that Britain had reservations about a European Community (EC) statement on the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane early this month but denied that it was the only country to have blocked the move.

Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister Theodhoros Pangalos reportedly blamed the U.K. Thursday for blocking the declaration because it omitted any reference to U.S. rights and that it was the only member of the 12-nation Community not to accept the draft statement.

"We had reservations about the draft but so did a number of other countries," a Foreign Office spokesman told IRNA but was unwilling to specify what the nature of its objections were.

The EC issued a statement from Brussels on July 7 expressing deep sorrow and concern at the incident and appealing for restraint, but it was withdrawn two hours later saying that it had been issued prematurely.

Greece is current chairman of the EC for the next six months and officials in Athens were said to have attacked the U.K. for its objections over the wording of such a mild declaration that were reported to have been based upon the lack of any reference to the right of navies to defend themselves in the Persian Gulf.

The Foreign Office spokesman presumed that the issue was now closed and did not expect the Community to again raise the issue in its debates.

Members of the European Parliament, a directly elected assembly separate from individual governments, last week called on the U.S. to meet its obligations over shooting down the alrbus and its vote was passed by 139 for, 15 against, and six abstentions.

It is not known if any British representatives were among the 15 voting against or those abstaining.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1507120488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Muslim people throughout Islamic Iran today took part in the glorious and unifying Friday prayers on the anniversary of the martyrdom of his Holiness Muhammad Taqi [ninth Shi'ite imam], peace be upon him. In Tehran a large number of people took part in the religious and political Friday prayers at the University of Tehran and surrounding streets under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani [member of and spokesman for the Council of Guardians].

According to a report from our correspondents, those taking part in the Friday prayers once again expressed readiness in their slogans to continue their battle against world arroagance and the Zionist Iraqi regime until they achieve their legitimate rights and punish the aggressor.

In his Friday sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani referred to the bestial U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger airliner and the martyrdom of about 300 defenseless passengers and crew of that aircraft, and said: By committing this awful crime of history, the United States and the Reagan Administration added another page to their record of crimes.

In response to U.S. claim that it came to the region to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf, he said: The various crimes of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf not only have not established security in this critical part of the world, but on the contrary they have led to greater insecurity.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani then referred to the firm position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Security Council, and said: We hope the conscience of the governments and nations of the world will be moved as the result of this tragic event, and that the American people reprimand Reagan and his government for committing this crime.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca at the hands of the cruel agents of the Saudi regime, saying:

That regime tragically martyred a number of pious and faithful people who had gathered in God's sanctuary in order to bring their rightful call to the ears of the people of the arrogant world and express their disavowal of world blasphemy and tyrants, and who wished to return to the true values to the hajj and revive the steadfastness and struggle of Muslims.

Regarding the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: The Zionist Iraqi regime 8 years ago carried out an aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, those who are sitting in international assemblies and organizations did not listen to the just call of the Iranian nation and government. Unfortunately, they portray that regime as a peace-loving regime, while they portray us as warmongers. Through our steadfastness and our support for the fighters of Islam, we shall regain our rights from the aggressors.

Canadian Delegation Arrives in Tehran

LD1507134388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] According a Central News Unit report, a Canadian delegation arrived in Tehran today to discuss with Iranian authorities the normalization of Iranian-Canadian relations.

Greek Daily Claims U.S. Behind Ship Attack

LD1507095288 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Athens, July 15, IRNA—A Greek morning daily Friday said the U.S. was behind the terrorist attack on the Greek excursion boat "City of Poros" last Monday which led to the death of nine people and injury of over 70 others.

Daily DIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS said political observers in Athens had reached the conclusion after taking into consideration the condemnation of the attack by Iran, the PLO and all other Palestinian organisations.

Telephone calls by two organisations, the Islamic Jihad and another new Palestinian organisation, claiming responsibility for the attack are considered to be farce, the paper said.

According to the newspaper, the U.S. through this attack aimed at putting pressure on the "non-obedient" Greek Government to play the "Tune of Washington."

The U.S. has launched an anti-Greek campaign accusing Papandreou's government of not doing enough to remove the anti-American sentiments in the Greek public opinion and of not fighting terrorism.

The U.S. campaign is aimed at putting pressure on Greece to get concessions on the American military bases, and to achieve the extradition of a Palestinian from a Greek jail whom the U.S. has accused of being involved in terrorist acts.

The 33 year old Palestinian, Muhammad Khalil Hamadan, was sentenced to seven months imprisonment Thursday by a misdemeanor court in Athens for travelling on a false passport. The U.S. claims that he is Muhammad Rashid and wants him to stand trial for two bomb attacks on American airliners in 1982 and 1986.

In Washington a U.S. Government spokesman has demanded an immediate extradition of Hamadan, Greek dailies Friday said. Greek dailies underlined the convergence of Iranian and PLO views on the terrorist attack on the cruise ship.

In a press conference on Wednesday the diplomatic representative of the PLO in Athens, Fu'ad al-Battar, said the U.S. and Mosad were behind the attack which was aimed at "disorientating public opinion from the (U.S.) downing of the (Iran Air) Airbus."

Referring to a telephone call to a French radio station by a caller claiming to belong to Islamic Jihad and taking responsibility for the [words indistinct] think that Islamic Jihad was behind it.

"Anyone can make a phone call and claim responsibility," he said, and added that "if this organisation wanted to take reprisal, it would have attacked American targets."

The Palestinian, Muhammad Hamadan, wanted by the U.S. for alleged terrorist acts, also told the press that the U.S. and Israel were behind the attack in order to distract public opinion from the downing of the Iranian Airbus.

Iran has severely condemned the attack and said the U.S. was behind it. An Iranian Embassy press release, published by Greek dailies, said "those who with their terroristic actions had attacked the Iranian passenger plane and downed it with 300 innocent passengers, fearing to provoke the international public opinion's indignation against themselves, planned and executed this savage attack against the Greek cruise ship."

A major Greek afternoon daily TA NEA Thursday noted the statements made by Iranian ambassador Habibollah Biyazar in an interview with IRNA that the U.S. aims at distracting world attention from the shooting down of the Airbus by the U.S.

Daily DIMOKRATIKOS LOGOS Friday printed a caricature showing reporters asking Reagan, "Mr. President, will you not again issue the travel advisory?" Reagan replies, "Certainly, do not travel with Airbus."

In 1985 Reagan issued a travel advisory asking American tourists not to visit Greece after a TWA airliner was hijacked from Athens airport.

Khamene'i Meets With Departing Turkish Envoy

LD1407220088 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Turkey's security is heavily dependent on a powerful Iran, said departing Turkish Ambassador Vulkan Vural in his meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Thursday. "We consider a powerful Iran as a powerful Turkey in the region," said Vural.

The ambassador expressed Turkish President Kenan Evren's and his country's regret over the downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf by U.S. naval forces on July 3. All 290 passengers and crew members aboard the Iranian Airbus A-300 were martyred when the cruiser USS Vincennes fired two missiles at the passing jet-liner.

Vural, adverting to the importance Turkish officials attach to expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations, called for promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Iran, blessed with a rich culture, has been cradle of civilization from ancient times, Vural said adding Iran has also played a prominent part in Islamic history and culture. "Iran can once again play its role in the progress of world's culture, especially that of the Islamic world," he said.

In response, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i expressing thanks for his Turkish counterpart's message said Turkey is a friendly neighbour of Iran. "Practical links between the two neighbouring Muslim countries will greatly benefit the region's political stability," he assured.

The president, referring to the unmanly shooting down of Iran Air Flight 655 by the U.S., said the catastrophe added fuel to Iranian people's wrath against U.S. expansionism and its obvious aid to the regime ruling Baghdad.

Washington's help to Iraq, its unprovoked aggressions and the satanic presence of its naval forces in the Persian Gulf can never influence the Islamic Revolution's certain victory, said the president adding "because Iranian people enjoy a powerful unbending will."

President Khamene'i called on Vural to convey his warm greetings to his Turkish counterpart.

Azarbayjan Governor Meets With Turkish Governor
NC1507081888 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The second round of talks between the governors of Azarbayjan Bakhtari in Iran and Agri Province in Turkey were held yesterday. Political, military, and trade delegations from the two provinces participated in the meeting and discussed efforts made to facilitate the travel of passengers and businessmen through the Turkish customs office, to increase the volume of bilateral trade, and to prevent smuggling between the two countries.

Border Trade Accord Signed With Turkey
LD1307191888 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 13, IRNA—A protocol on border issues and trade exchanges was inked Wednesday after two days of talks here between governors-general of Iran's West Azarbayjan Province and Turkey's Hakkari Province.

According to the protocol, organization of rural and urban affairs of West Azarbayjan will exchange necessary goods with the Turkish province to the tune of $500,000.

Turkish Governor-General Arif Akbulut [name as received] told IRNA that talks were held concerning border issues, and described them as an important step in trade exchanges.

In reply, Zain ol-Abedin Yusufi-Ata'i, the Iranian governor-general said exchanges of essential goods was discussed with the Turkish delegation.

Ataie said the province will export minerals including coals, salt as well as cement and import vegetable oil, soap and some other essential items from Turkey's Hakkari Province.

Mo'ayeri Urges Continued of War Effort
LD1407174388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] In a television interview about the rumors of peace in the imposed war, Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy, said:

Recent developments on the fronts have enabled foreign radios to sow seeds of doubt in the public's mind with their poisonous propaganda. We must tell the people that as the Islamic Republic did not start the war, we must continue our sacred defense to punish the aggressor and to receive justice.

These developments were based on the views of the country's military experts. Under these circumstances, peace would not bring security. The people should know the facts about the war and maintain their presence on the scene of the revolution, as they have in the past.

He added: At present the enemy is fully mobilized against us. We should be stronger in our war effort. The General Command Headquarters, which includes the government, the IRGC, and the Armed Forces, was formed to utilize all of the country's resources to continue the sacred defense.

Mo'ayeri, Fallahian on 'Psychological Warfare'
NC1407185388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1625 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Political roundtable discussion with 'Ali Fallahian, deputy minister of intelligence and security, and 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs, moderated Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 14 July in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Afshar] Mr Mo'ayeri, I would like to state a couple of examples and then ask my question. As you know, psychological warfare has different dimensions. One area in which the fifth column has recently been making a great effort is in claiming that our officials want peace and an end to the war.

They allege that as the people will not accept this peace before the aggressor is punished, our officials have agreed to bring the forces to the borders and then say: We cannot resist the enemy; therefore we have to make peace. This rumor is spreading among the people these days, and it is having a completely evil impact. What is your opinion of these kinds of rumors?

[Mo'ayeri] First, the people and the officials are not separated from each other. One special aspect of our Islamic system and revolution is that the officials come from the people, are chosen by the people, and the people have a very sentimental and sincere relationship with them. The other point is that we are not a country that wants to start war or be a warmonger.

A multifaceted aggression was perpetrated against us, and it is our Islamic and patriotic duty to oust the aggressor from our land and punish him so that a lasting peace can be created in the region. This is the desire of all our people, our nation, and our leadership. There are no differences of opinion on this.

Recent developments on the fronts and the changes in some of our battlelines have paved the way for foreign elements, foreign radios, and generally speaking all those who wish this revolution ill to exploit rumors and psychological means to create doubt among some of the people who are less informed about these issues.

The definite truth is that if we do not achieve justice, if we do not regain our rights, our sacred defense will still not be halted. During the 8 years of this imposed war our dear people have lived through various problems and economic limitations, given their children to the revolution, and sent their children to the fronts. Many people have been martyred.

All this took place not for the sake of one inch of land but because of the lofty Islamic ideals of the people, ideals declared by the leadership from the beginning. The point is that if our dear people now see that a series of changes are taking place in our defensive situation and our battlelines on the fronts, this—as explained to the people in statements issued by the Armed Forces General Command and the Islamic government—is at the request and on the basis of views of our military experts, both in the IRGC and the Armed Forces.

These changes were made to place us in a stronger defensive position to prevent threats against our national security and in order to continue this defense, not for any other reason, such as returning to international borders and declaring a cease-fire. What would we have gained after 8 years of war? Would this cease-fire restore stable and full security to the region?

Or would we be moving toward an armed peace, forced to maintain our forces on the fronts, to spend our foreign exchange income for the mobilization of forces, and being unable to start constructive work within the country? Naturally, from whatever angle we analyze this, we see that nothing substantiates the rumors that we want to end the war this way.

The fact is that the dear people should know exactly what is going on. It is the officials' duty to place this information—both military and political—at the disposal of the people and to inform the people. From the outset the revolution has belonged to the people, who were present at the scene and defended their Islamic revolution from various plots at various junctures. It is the same now; the people, God willing, can help this revolution on its path and, with God's help, continue it.

[Afshar] Mr Mo'ayeri, some people believe that the reason the UN Security Council did not accept Iran's demand to name the aggressor was because Iran was in a powerful position in the war, and they did not want Iran's word to triumph.

However, now that the situation has changed to a certain extent and we have temporarily lost our former powerful position, it is possible that the Security Council will agree to recognize the aggressor and then to ask us to make peace, as we have been saying that we will make peace once the aggressor is recognized. What is your opinion?

[Mo'ayeri] The just position of the Islamic Republic has always been that first the country that started the war and the aggressor should be named. The entire world knows that Iraq started the war and that Iraq is the aggressor. We wanted the international forums and countries to state this explicitly and then form a committee to specify the aggressor's punishments. We have said that if positive attitudes are seen in this regard, our position toward the United Nations will also change.

However, definite declaration of the aggressor is not an end in itself. There are other legal aspects, examples of which can be found in history, in the world, and in recent wars. The punishments specified for the aggressor should be fulfilled. We do not believe they will do so. In my view, this falls within the context of the topic we are discussing here tonight: psychological activities and rumors.

One of the methods our enemies use on a worldwide scale is to spread doubt among our people and our fighting forces. If they can maneuver this way and exploit wide-scale propaganda, they will believe that doubt has been created among our people who attach their hopes to international forums. As a result, the people would stop going to the fronts as they should and would not fight seriously.

My personal view is that this will never happen but is only something the enemy seeks in order to augment its psychological activities. We should strongly resist, although of course not by limiting our presence or political activities in international forums. No, that is an open path, and the work continues correctly.

However, we should not attach any hopes to them. We should continue our extensive presence on the fronts, as pointed out to the people by our high-ranking officials. What is certain is that if we do not gain our right by ourselves, no one in the world will give us what is rightfully ours. This is a proven point. The past behavior of the Security Council and international forums has made our people and our officials pessimistic. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Mo'ayeri, in your remarks you stated that it is very good for officials to discuss things with the people and keep them up to date, because they are living through this revolution and are thirsty for political information and news.

During 6 and ½ years of the imposed war we had an offensive situation in the war—both in our combat organization and in our society's psychological attitude toward the enemy. Now, because of various elements which your excellency also noted, the situation has temporarily changed on the fronts to a certain extent.

Our people must adapt themselves to this new situation, which takes time. In other words, our people need time to adapt. However, an important element in preparing

the people to adapt themselves mentally to the new conditions is for them to know the reason behind the change in the situation on the fronts. As you stated, the officials should keep the people informed.

Of course, the government statement cited briefly the reasons for this change. This was also discussed in remarks by other officials. However, I think these have not been sufficient for the people who are thirsting to know. Can you please speak on this in more detail?

[Mo'ayeri] As you pointed out, the officials always inform the people. One good opportunity in the Islamic Republic—a special aspect rare in the world—is the Friday prayers, when clergymen inform the people of current affairs and when high-ranking officials of the country also talk to the people. This has always existed and should be increased and expanded. The dear people should be supplied with information. As for why we have reached such a situation, this is of course a complicated topic. God willing, plans have been made to inform the dear people in the near future in more detail.

However, I would like to point out a few of these [word indistinct]. One is that after the Al-Faw and "Karbala'-5" operations, during which our fighting forces in the IRGC, the Armed Forces, and the Mobilization units displayed very high capabilities and were able to overcome extremely complicated and sensitive obstacles to gain access to Iraq's strategic positions and gain strategic position, an ominous feeling was felt in the world, both among the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and its mentors, with whom Iraq's future is bound in one way or another.

The East, the West, and the reactionary Arab countries started extending more and more serious assistance to Iraq, offering political and economic assistance, extending unconditional loans, selling oil on Iraq's behalf, using neutral areas, and other assistance. Also, overtures started on the international level aimed primarily at preserving, supporting, and assisting the Iraqi regime's aggression.

It was after these operations that we witnessed activities aimed at issuing a document at the United Nations known as Resolution No 598. This resolution may be one of the rarest resolution as it was unanimously approved at the United Nations. The reason for this was the extensive political activity by Iraq's mentors at the United Nations.

Of course, the Islamic Republic, for its part, took certain necessary steps. It talked with various countries and strived to see that our views were voiced, to a large extent. However, with this vast support, the Iraqi regime found an opportunity to reorganize its military, economic, and political situation. The situation we are facing is that, first of all, Iraq has used all its country's resources for the war. All our compatriots know that the soldiers recruited in Iraq at the beginning of the war have not yet been relieved.

During the 8 years of the war no soldier has been relieved of his duties. Second, reserve forces have been recruited in the war. People between the ages of 17 and 42 are fighting in the war. Most civil servants are fighting. Generally speaking, Iraq has used the many economic possibilities placed at its disposal by various countries to reorganize its military forces and carry out operations against us.

The Islamic Republic has been able to direct this war, thank God, for these 8 years without exerting major pressure on the people. Anyone coming to our country from abroad considers it a point to our benefit that the war has not been felt within the country. The officials did not want to inconvenience the country. The war was being carried out in a proper way. However, in the situation we are now facing conditions have changed. The enemy has become more mobilized than in the past.

This applies both to the genuine enemy before us—the aggressive Iraqi regime—and its mentors in the East, the West, and reactionary Arab countries. We are on the eve of the anniversary of the massacre of our dear pilgrims at the holy shrine, the 6th of Dhu al-Hijjah [19 July]. You saw how the Hijaz regime confronted the Muslim Iranian people's cry of disavowal last year. The position by other reactionary Arab countries toward us intensified. All this fell within the framework of a heightened attack on the Islamic Revolution.

Because the enemy has mobilized in a concrete and multifaceted way, employed all its potentials, and is using all its resources, we must review our present situation. What should be explained to the dear people first and foremost, is that the situation has changed. The situation has changed compared with the past 1 or 2 years. The enemy has come forth with more strength. We, too, should come forth more strongly.

We now see statements being issued by the government and the General Command and even the formation of the General Command Headquarters because even though the government had previously placed its resources at the disposal of the war, nevertheless this is now being done in a more manifold and direct way. The General Command Headquarters now includes the government, the IRGC brothers, and the brothers of the Armed Forces, under the supervision of the dear acting commander in chief, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. All the country's resources are being mobilized.

Now that the enemy is attacking us in a united and all-embracing way and with more strength, we also should deploy ourselves in a more united and all-embracing way for our sacred defense. If we continued our sacred defense in the same way as in the past, we would face irreparable losses. The recent changes carried out on the orders of the General Command and on the basis of the views of our dear military brothers in the IRGC and the Armed Forces are directed toward this end.

In other words, if some changes have taken place in some of our offensive and defensive positions, it is in order to preserve our national security and our vital areas. The necessary explanation about this will, God willing, be placed at the disposal of the people, and our dear people will be informed of the situation. [passage omitted]

Editorial Rejects 'Vincennes' Self-Defense Claim

PM1307151588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 88 pp 1-2

[Editorial by unidentified correspondent: "The Disaster in the Persian Gulf Yesterday and Our Duties Today"]

[Text] The frightening crime of the United States in downing an Iranian passenger airliner, moved humanity's conscience and proved once again that Washington will not stop at any inhuman act to achieve its unjust aims in any corner of the world.

High-level officials in Washington, headed by Ronald Reagan, last night formally accepted responsibility for the missile attack by the frigate "Vincennes" against the Iranian Airbus. The U.S. President and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that in an act of self-defense and by mistake the "Vincennes" had opened fire on the Iranian Airbus. This claim by the American officials can only be accepted by a nonmilitary amateur like Mrs Thatcher because Western experts said the special strength of the "Vincennes" is to recognize sea and airborne objects over a wide area.

In other words, the Airbus had appeared on the radar screens of the "Vincennes" the minute it took off from Bandar-e 'Abbas airport. The claims of the American officials that the military men aboard the "Vincennes" thought the Airbus was an F-14 fighter, is nothing but a stupid remark. How can one accept the fact that U.S. military personnel could not tell the difference between a small bird like an F-14 and an Airbus?

The important thing to note in the remarks of the Washington officials is the "self-defense" claim, a claim that only Washington can present to humanity in this day and age. Murder, crime, and robbery are among the explanations that Washington easily fits into the category of "self-defense." One must ask Washington about the differences between yesterday's crime against innocent people and children and the incident involving the attack of Soviet fighters against a South Korean jetliner carrying 269 people including 59 American passengers, some 3 [as published] years ago.

During that tragedy, there were a million words uttered by the Western mass media throughout the world. There were many painful poems written and added to the literature of the Western world. For the tragic events of yesterday the same mass media fired off the words "self-defense" thousands of times over the world's telex lines.

One must now ask the Soviet mass media, particularly the official TASS news agency, how sweet the honeymoon between Reagan and Gorbachev must have been in order for them to follow blindly the explanations given by the American officials with regard to yesterday's events.

In looking at yesterday's disaster, there are several truths that must be kept in mind.

1. The military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf which Washington calls "self-defense" is nothing but an aggressive and expansionist presence which brings the crisis in the Persian Gulf to a point of no return. Now the necessity of an immediate pull-out by American troops from the Persian Gulf must be accorded priority by all Western countries and all caring people.

2. If the United States continues its aggressive policies in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasize the principle that the U.S. military presence has no purpose other than delivering a blow against the national rights of the Islamic Republic and upsetting the existing balance in the war imposed by Iraq against Iran.

So, in stressing self-defense—within its correct meaning—and in order to prevent another similar tragedy, it can increase its retaliatory policies with regard to U.S. floating targets in the Persian Gulf. In this way no one will dare intrude inside the holy boundaries of the Islamic Revolution and deliver blows unhindered.

3. International bodies such as the United Nations must unreservedly condemn the inhuman crime that occured yesterday. When this sad tragedy occurs in broad daylight and while U.S. officials formally accept responsibility for this crime, the invitation to UN experts to come and view the place of the incident, is not enough.

We must not provide international bodies with a false opportunity to produce one-sided and incomplete analyses and to adopt one-sided or multi-sided views in an optimistic manner. Yesterday's incident must be recorded as another claim by the Islamic Republic against the United States and must be viewed seriously in the World Court at The Hague so that the United States will be punished by world legal circles.

The last word is that the brave people of Iran must regard their holy defense against the Iraqi regime as one determined war against world imperialism, headed by the United States.

If this public acceptance becomes the basis of Iran's politico-military strategy and if all our foreign and local policies—social, economic, and cultural—are based on that principle, then the path to victory and the holy defense, overcoming the arms of the regional imperialists like the regime of Iraq, will be made easy. In this way

the Iranian Islamic Revolution will not only present a good model in the struggle of the oppressed, but it will also guarantee its own future.

KEYHAN Comments on Peace 'Rumor'
PM1307144588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 88 p 2

[Editorial by Mehdi Nasiri: "A Look at a New Plot"]

[Excerpts] For some time now there has been a rumor rampant in some circles about making peace with Saddam. There are some who have believed this rumor and to confirm this they have been reviewing several events. However, a closer look at these events reveals that they are do not provide reasons for believing or even suspecting that peace is possible with the Ba'thist regime. It would not be a bad idea if we look at these reasons to see if this is really what people are believing. They are:

1. Restoration of relations with Britain and France.

2. Withdrawal of the Islamic forces from some of the fronts.

3. The comings and goings and diplomatic negotiations of Foreign Ministry officials.

A. In denying the first reason, it must be recalled that according to Iran's foreign policy, the breaking of diplomatic ties should not be seen as a principle, except as regards three countries: the United States, South Africa, and Israel. Relations are quite acceptable with any country that bears no malice within the boundaries of mutual interests. This principle is both accepted by the Constitution and the leadership. If at times our relations with a country have been severed, it is because that country has disregarded some principles accepted by the international community of nations. Usually, it is those countries themselves that have broken the ties. [passage omitted]

B. There can be two reasons why the withdrawal of the Islamic forces could be thought to be premeditated: first, as a plan to plant certain ideas in the peoples' minds; and second, the naive thinking of some people.

The truth of the matter is that the recent withdrawals have been a result of an unprecedented coordination and cooperation of the world aggressors, both Eastern and Western, to keep the Ba'thist regime of Iraq in power at any price. Of course, the widespread deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqis on one hand and the lack of adequate coordination and organization in our troops on the other played a part. As we said, to say these withdrawals were deliberate and linked with Resolution No 598, which insists that both sides return to international borders, is a clever ploy by the enemy, broadcast to our people by foreign radios. Unfortunately, a few dedicated Muslims believe this.

How can the leadership of the revolution and the officials in charge of the war, who are trusted and accepted by the people, accept the worst possible strategy, and in order to accept a disgraceful peace, provide the shakiest possible reasons? If the clever enemies are trying to sully the image of our leaders and those responsible for decisions in the country, should we, God forbid, fall prey to their tricks?

C. The explanation for part A should also explain part C. The comings and goings of Foreign Ministry officials is nothing new. This is not something that has just happened in the past few months. These movements are based on policies set by the highest officials of the country, coordinated with the guidelines set by the imam. Sometimes, they are more active than at other times. If, God forbid, someone may think that one official has certain aims in mind which are not in line with our foreign policy, it is quite clear that this person will not get far. [passage omitted]

The rumors that indicate Iran is ready to accept Resolution No 598 without indentifying the aggressor and punishing him also originate with the enemy. In this regard the officials have repeatedly announced that identifying the aggressor and his punishment, is the first condition of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a reply to the diplomatic efforts of the United Nations. Any negotiations that take place in this regard are based on the principle of identifying the aggressor and his punishment. It is obvious that if the international community takes this step, the way will be prepared to secure the other rights of the Iranian people which have been ignored.

It would not be a bad idea now to see why the enemy is spreading peace rumors. It is without a doubt an effort to weaken the war effort, in other words, to weaken the people's holy defense, which despite all pressures has continued so far. The enemy's main goal with these rumors is to instill this negative attitude at a time when the enemy has had some success and is again showing his teeth, just as he did at the beginning of the war. This is like throwing a bucket of cold water over the warm hearts of the people who are determined to see final victory, the fall of the aggressor. So far our people have accepted everything and have lost their loved ones in the process.

The enemy knows full well that to instill disappointment in our people would mean one victory for them in all fields, political, economic, and military. This is why they are now accusing the regime's officials of making behind-the-scenes deals to end the war and to make peace with the regime in Iraq.

Another of their aims is to weaken those responsible for the war and the acting joint chief of staff. They portray as first-rate officials those who are willing to compromise and make deals and this is one of the chief goals of the foreign propaganda machines in the past few months.

This has been quite obvious following the imam's choice of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander in chief. This indicates a calculated plot designed to thwart our efforts to organze troops and facilities in the service of the honorable war of the Iranian people. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, the recent remarks made by the Supreme War Support Council and the exciting remarks of the President and the head of the Supreme Defense Council at the Friday prayers in Tehran, smashed these rumors to a large extent. It is obvious that future movements of the Islamic forces in the fronts and more victories, while keeping the present strong position, will defeat the enemy's latest plot. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views U.S. Chemical Warfare Position
NC0907080388 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Jun 88 p 11

[Editorial titled "Reactive Gestures in U.S. Policy"]

[Text] Although 3 months have passed since the Halabjah holocaust jolted the world, the international community continues to witness further reaction to the extensive use of chemical weapons and the genocidal massacre by Iraq. In the latest issue of STERN, an FRG magazine, a correspondent gives an eyewitness account of the greatest catastrophe in contemporary history. He declares that it is a savage war crime, the implications of which have not yet dawned upon the world.

STERN reports its correspondent's accounts of the massacre of nearly half a million Iraqi Kurds which was carried out at the behest of the Baghdad regime as part of its scorched earth policy. The regime forced the Kurds to move to mountainous areas and deserts so that it could massacre them there. STERN explains that this is genocide of its own people by Ba'thist Iraq, and that Kurdish villages are continually attacked and massacred by the Iraqi regime's chemical bombs.

The magazine's correspondent cites an instance of some remaining inhabitants who, upon refusing to attribute the chemical bombing of their village to Iran, were imprisoned. Within a few days 56 of them died; and a doctor who volunteered to treat the others was executed. The correspondent says that these crimes culminated in the chemical bombing of Halabjah. He points out that the Baghdad regime is the only government in the world which has used chemical weapons against its own people.

It is natural that such heinous atrocities cannot remain hidden for ever. No one can remain silent in the face of such horrible crimes even if he is at the center of the decisionmakers of world oppression. The U.S. Senate has passed a resolution condemning Iraqi war crimes connected with the use of chemical weapons, clearly asking the Washington administration to prevent the use of such weapons by Iraq. Not a single U.S. senator voted against this resolution. Collectively, the Senate castigated Iraq for the massacre of civilian Kurds within Iraqi territory and demanded that Iraq should immediately stop using chemical weapons.

According to Washington circles, this resolution merely represents the opinion of the U.S. Senate, and has nothing to do with the official position of the government of that country. Without any further elaboration, the position and policy of the United States are clear. The U.S. Government considers war crimes an essential part of war.

Even Vernon Walters, its UN representative, expressed the opinion that such war crimes strengthen the case for a halt to the war. He clearly opposes the castigation of war crimes and follows the U.S. policy of preventing any condemnation of Iraq for its perpetration of such crimes.

In any case, the U.S. Senate has condemned the Iraqi regime for its extensive use of chemical weapons. This condemnation could reflect the failure of U.S. policy in the past and the beginning of a new development in Washington's retreat from its erroneous and inhuman policy and its absolute support for the war criminals ruling Iraq.

What the U.S. Senate announced is not new, although its statement and tone seem new. According to the Senate resolution, the official UN report clearly states that Iraq has been using chemical weapons on a large scale since 1984.

This was confirmed during the visits by UN teams in 1984, 1986, and 1987. Therefore, the facts themselves are not new, and are not something that the U.S. Senate has just discovered. The questions that arise are: Why have they not condemned the Iraqi crimes before now, and why are they doing so at this particular time?

The fact is that Iraq's war crimes, particularly the Halabjah catastrophe, are so inhuman and base that they have strongly affected the international community and have motivated it to take a position. In the days following the incident, pictorial coverage of the Halabjah bombing showed the indignant reaction of world public opinion against the war criminals ruling Iraq and aroused hatred for the Iraqi Ba'thists.

However, why has the U.S. Senate taken a stand 3 months after the Halabjah incident and why, in its own words, is it now condemning the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, 4 years after the United Nations brought out its first official report on the extensive use of chemical weapons?

Is Washington trying to mitigate and rein in the negative effects of its unstinting support for Iraq's war crimes? We should not forget that immediately after the Halabjah disaster, the Islamic Republic of Iran called for a team of experts to investigate the bombing, under UN auspices. The United States, however endeavored to

oppose and obstruct the dispatch of such a team and the submission of its report, with the result that a tailored, watered- down report on Iraq's war crimes was submitted to the UN Security Council.

It was because of U.S. pressure that the UN Security Council was unwilling to condemn Iraq for the terrible crimes in Halabjah, or even to name it as responsible for the crimes. Does the U.S. Senate wish to compensate for this inhuman U.S. attitude in the UN Security Council and change the inhuman image that the United States has on the international scene?

The United States has seen that the entire world has condemned the Halabjah holocaust, and Washington's insistence on supporting Iraq on the international level has made a very ugly impression on world public opinion. Perhaps it is in order to redeem the situation that the U.S. Senate has thus entered the arena to atone for its malice.

In light of the above, this retreat in U.S. policy should not be viewed lightly. The fact is that the Halabjah incident and the Iraqi war crimes have placed Iraq and its supporters in a very ignominious position. World public opinion should exert pressure on Iraq's supporters that the enemy and his allies retreat further from their anti-human position. Before this development is interpreted as an optional move, it should be considered as a reaction to the worldwide condemnation of Iraq and its crimes.

Navy Repairs, Launches Damaged Warship

LD1407210688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Through the efforts of the faithful and expert personnel of the first naval region of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one of the Islamic Republic's warships was repaired and launched this morning. According to the Central News Unit, in a ceremony this morning which was attended by the Hormozgan Governor General and by the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy's First Region, the "Naqdi" warship, which has been under repair for 4 months, was launched and once again put into use by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy.

An officer of the Navy's First Region in an interview with the Central News Unit said: Despite an economic blockade by global arrogance, we have succeeded in manufacturing and exchanging the warship's main generators, boilers, and fans, and in undertaking basic repairs of the motor and the shaft, as well as the radar system. We have thus made it operational.

Volunteers From Cities Sent to Battlefronts

LD1407230688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] At the same time as fresh forces from throughout the country were sent to the battlefronts, the cities of Bojnurd, Ghuchan, Shirvan, Dargaz, Esfarayen, and Firuz Kuh saw large numbers of fighting forces depart for the fronts. In the meantime, a well-informed military official announced that the able fighters of Islam are still awaiting more extensive departures of fighting forces to further consolidate their ranks at the fronts in order to continue the sacred defense against the aggressor.

'Popular Forces' Leave for Fronts

LD1407231388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The extensive departure of fresh popular forces to the battlefronts continued today as large groups of combatant Mobilization of the Oppressed forces, in special convoys of the Mohammad Corps, left Tabriz and Maragheh for the country's war zones. Yesterday, another large group of these forces left Semnan and Karaj for the battlefronts.

Another report notes that a large group of fresh popular forces left Hamadan today for the country's war zones.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Air Force Bombs Mehran Sector

LD1507104488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports today before noon, Air Force pilots in four separate sorties at 1140, 1145, 1210, and 1215, [times as heard] heavily bombed Iraqi concentrations, fortifications, and armored equipment in the operational zones of Hajj 'Umran and Mehran. After inflicting heavy casualties and damages on the Saddamists, they all returned safely to their bases.

Communique No 3,263

LD1407164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers in two separate sorties heavily pounded Iraqi positions in Faqqeh operational theater Thursday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique here today.

The 3263rd communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that all fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their missions which took place at 10:15 and 10:18 hours local time (06:45 and 06:48 GMT).

Iranian air force jets also carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in support of the Navy Wednesday, reconnoitering 28 vessels of various kinds including oil tankers, tug boats, launches and a warship.

In the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, Iranian naval units, in addition to carrying out their patrol missions, keep a close eye on movement of foreign vessels sailing in the waterway.

A number of Iraqi patrolmen operating in Mehran and Salehabad yesterday were forced to flee when faced with heavy Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions and motorized columns in zones of their influence yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying six bunkers of theirs.

On Wednesday, Iran's Muslim combatants brought all Iraqi logistical operations throughout the battlefields under their control and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Marivan Suburbs

LD1407182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 14, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes Thursday morning bombed vicinity of Qal'eh Ji [placename as recieved] and Bahramabad villages, both suburbs of Marivan. Some seven villagers were wounded and several wheat-stacks caught fire.

Communique No 3,264

LD1507161688 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters flew six combat sorties Friday, heavily bombing Iraqi positions and troop concentration centers in Hajj 'Umran and Mehran, northwestern and western fronts. The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Announcing the above here today, the 3264th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Thursday reconnoitered 35 vessels of various kinds, including oil tankers, cargo ships and warships.

Iranian gunboats in addition to carrying out their routine patrol missions in the territorial and international waters yesterday closely monitored movement of two Iraqi vessels around the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

Muslim forces of Iran continued their battles with Iraqi troops in the northwestern and western fronts, especially in Sumar Thursday, killing or wounding a number of Ba'thist soldiers.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the southern fronts yesterday as a result of which Iraq troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

In Helaleh, western sector, an Iraqi patrol convoy sustained several casualties and was forced to flee yesterday when shelled by Iranian forces.

Iraqi logistical operations in Kani-Sheykh and Faqqeh, western and southern sectors, were checked by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

Saudi Paper Interviews Mojahedin-e Khalq Official

PM0707134388 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 2 Jul 88 pp 16, 17

[Report on interview with Mohammad Seyyed al-Mohaddesin, head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Political Department, by Sulayman al-'Usay in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] Mohammad Seyyed al-Mohaddesin, head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Political Department and Iranian National Council member, has said that the fact that Khomeyni has prevented Iranian pilgrims from performing the hajj this year confirms that he is against Islam and pilgrims as he has committed a crime unprecedented in Islamic history. The Iranian people will not keep silent over this move.

The Kingdom's severing of diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime is a move toward peace and calm in the region. It is an act that deserves some appreciation. We hope other states will follow the Kingdom's example, severing their relations with the Tehran regime in order to besiege and tighten the grip around it and then destroy it so peace and tranquillity will prevail in the region, which the war has destroyed. [passage omitted]

On a question about various rumors on Khomeyni's approaching death, Mohammad Seyyed al-Mohaddesin said: Khomeyni is 88 and could die at any time. The Tehran regime itself spreads these rumors for various purposes. For instance, rumors about Khomeyni's death or serious illness tend to be released when defeat is inflicted on the regime's forces. Then a few days later he appears on television as if to say "I am alive."

The desperate regime considers that a victory. We as a liberation and resistance army are not concerned with his death. We want to remove the regime while Khomeyni is still alive so that he will face the biggest trial in history in the presence of representatives from all over the world who will hear Khomeyni himself talking about the crimes he has committed against his people, Islam, and mankind. And that would be much better for us than his natural death.

The head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Political Department emphasized: I hope it will not be long before Tehran is liberated. I cannot determine the month when that will take place, but one thing is certain: The distance ahead of us is much shorter than the distance we have traveled. The Iranian regime has lost all its available

strategic resources. It has suffered three defeats. This is in addition to the National Liberation Army's great achievements during the "Bright Sun" operation. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about moving Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi from Paris to Iraq, Al-Mohaddesin said: The transfer of the command's headquarters was made as a result of the escalating resistance inside Iran. The command must be nearer to the place of action. [passage omitted]

As for the organization's relationship with Iraq and Iraq's acceptance of it, it is primarily based on efforts to establish peace between the two countries by virtue of the fact that they are neighbors. The Iranian people do not want the war to continue. It is Khomeyni alone who wants the war to continue. [passage omitted]

In his interview Al-Mohaddesin emphasized to AL-RIYAD that the organization cooperates with Iranian opposition elements abroad, but not with those who served under the shah's regime or participated in his crimes. [passage omitted]

As for the Iranian people's living conditions, they are quite bad. Our people, who are calling for peace and freedom, are experiencing the darkest days in history. They are living under many pressures. Eight million are unemployed. Inflation is skyrocketing. Average citizens find it difficult to obtain necessities as prices are soaring in an unprecedented way. [passage omitted]

Tudeh Party Statement Condemns U.S. 'Crime'

LD1307195688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Tudeh Party Central Committee statement dated July-August 1988]

[Text] On the morning of 3 July a passenger aircraft from Iran, which was flying over the Persian Gulf, was hit by missiles fired by the "USS Vincennes" and exploded in midair. The 290 innocent passengers and crew of this aircraft were clearly the victims of a crime and of the policy of force of U.S. imperialism.

The downing of a passenger aircraft flying in a known air corridor and over international waters is nothing but an aggressive and bloody violation of international laws and recognized international standards. It has exacerbated the insecurity that currently prevails in the severely crisis-ridden region, and it is a clear intervention in the Persian Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war. Furthermore, it is like lighting a fire next to a powder keg and is a dangerous and irresponsible move threatening the peace and security of the world, a world that is interlinked.

U.S. imperialism, in order to hide its bloodstains, described this painful calamity in which more than 100 women and children were sacrificed, in the words of U.S. President Reagan, as the result of a purely defensive action.

However, this inhuman act was not a purely defensive action but was in fact a terroristic act. It was not an accident that could not be foreseen. It arises from the aggressive nature of imperialism in general and the world-devouring nature of U.S. imperialism in particular. This sad incident is an inevitable and direct result of the intensification of the military and naval presence of U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies in the Persian Gulf region.

U.S. imperialism and its allies which have stationed some 60 battleships in the region have, through this inhuman act, again warned the masses of the region by a show of force to pave the way for advancing their short- and long-term goals. Such warnings, considering their unforeseeable effects, in conjunction with the agitation and threats used by both sides afterwards in this region—which is by itself in an explosive area—can result in disasters whose dimensions are unimaginable.

In addition, we should note that U.S. imperialism, through creating such incidents, is further complicating issues arising from the Iran-Iraq war and dims any hope of a political solution to this war. The Tudeh Party of Iran, in this respect, blames aggressive U.S. imperialism and asks all international organizations and peace-loving forces again to condemn U.S. imperialism for the murder of innocent people and aggression against the clear rights of the masses.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, by paying attention to the national interests and vital interests of our masses, demands an end to the crisis-causing military presence of U.S. imperialism in the region. Our party, in condemning the latest crime by the aggressor U.S. imperialism, believes that such an inhuman and bullying action by the Pentagon must not become an excuse to continue the Iran-Iraq war, which continues to serve Washington's interests.

The Tudeh Party's Central Committee invites all its members and supporters abroad to use all their capabilities to reveal the criminal nature of U.S. imperialism. All party cells must reveal the multifaceted plots of international imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, the No 1 enemy of the world masses thus heatedly continuing the struggle to end the destructive Iran-Iraq war.

The Tudeh Party's Central Committee also conveys its deepest condolences to the families of the latest U.S. crime.

[Signed] Tudeh Party of Iran Central Committee

[Dated] July-August 1988

Briefs

Drugs, Other Goods Seized

According to IRNA, the round-the-clock efforts of the Islamic Republic's Gendarmerie personnel have discovered in the course of the last few days, 215 kilos of opium, 62 kilos of hashish, 8 kilos of heroin, and several weapons in the Provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan, Khorasan, and Kerman, in addition to 145 fine silk carpets, 1,403 rolls of cloth, 45,500 packs of various foreign cigarettes, 10 million rials cash, and a large amount of smuggled goods. Several people were arrested in this connection. [Text] [*LD1407053588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 11 Jul 88*]

Pakistan

Shari'a Ordinance Enforcement Debated in Senate
BK1407112288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The enforcement of the shari'a ordinance promulgated by the president last month was laid before the Senate today by the justice minister, Mr Wasim Sajjad. The laying of the ordinance was followed by a procedural debate on the way house could deal with it in view of the special provision when the lower house of Parliament does not exist.

Professor Khurshid Ahmad said there was no room for the house to bring amendments in the shari'a ordinance. It can only adopt a resolution if it wanted to disapprove the ordinance. Maulana Samiul Haq referred to the private shari'a bill jointly moved by him and Kazi Abdul Latif which is already before the Senate. He said they did not want to disapprove the shari'a ordinance, but at the same time they did not want to approve in its present form.

The justice minister, Mr Wasim Sajjad, maintained that although no amendment can be made in the ordinance, the members can give their suggestions and assured that the government will accept all reasonable suggestions.

About explanation of objectives and circumstances necessitating the ordinance, the minister said he will explain these when the discussion is held on the ordinance.

The house will meet again on Sunday afternoon.

Ziaul Haq Sets Up Education, Economy Commissions
BK1407163288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, today appointed two separate commissions on Islamization of economy and Islamization of education. The enforcement of shari'a ordinance, which was promulgated on the 15th of last month, provided for constitutions of these commissions within 30 days.

The permanent commission on Islamization of economy will be headed by a prominent economist and scholar, Prof Ahsan Rashid, of the University of Karachi. It will include Dr Rafiq Ahmad, vice chancellor of Punjab University; Mr I.A. Hansi, deputy governor, State Bank of Pakistan; Mufti Mohammad Rafi Usmani, president of Darul Uloom [center of education], Karachi; and Zafar Ishaq Ansari of International Islamic University as members.

The permanent commission on Islamization of education will have Dr Razeeuddin Siddiqui, an eminent educationist, as its chairman. It would comprise Maulana Mohammad Malik of Jamia Ashrafia [college], Lahore; Dr Mian Mohammad Nazir of Peshawar University; Dr Ataur Rahman of University of Karachi; Dr Mrs Kamar Waheed of University Grants Commission; Dr Parvin Shaukat of Lahore College for Women; Retired Brigadier Naseeruddin; principal of cadet college Hasan Abdal; and Mr Ashfaq Ahmad of Urdu Science Board.

Yaqub Khan on Ways To Counter Foreign Propaganda
BK1407090988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said that the government is stepping up its efforts to effectively answer foreign propaganda against the country, particularly the latest allegations about the violation of the Geneva accords and the nuclear issue. He was replying to a supplementary question by Mr Mohsin Siddiqui raised in the Senate today about the steps taken to improve the efficiency of the country's missions abroad. The foreign minister said Pakistan's points of view have been projected by its missions abroad to neutralize propaganda against it in the foreign press. He felt that serious attention was also being paid by the government to the protection of government policies and the country's cultural image abroad through its missions.

Commentary on Gandhi Remarks in Amman
BK1407095888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Hasan Akhtar Gardezi commentary]

[Text] When the prime minister of a neighboring country as important to us as is India chooses to criticize our country in terms as uncomplimentary as Mr Rajiv Gandhi did in Jordan on Monday [11 July], one has to take note of it. Mr Gandhi told newspaper editors in Amman that Pakistan was supporting terrorism in India. He also said India was troubled by Pakistan's nuclear program. Now that Mr Gandhi was leveling these allegations against Pakistan for the first time, what struck most observers was the language he used. The international wire services covering his activities called it an outright attack. The REUTER news agency, for instance, said the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, attacked Pakistan on Monday for what he called its support of terrorism in India, et cetera, et cetera.

We should not have been much surprised by Mr Gandhi's statement but for two things, which call for some explanation. The first was the timing of the statement and the second the place of it. It will be noted that while overflying Pakistan's territory on 11 July on his way to Amman, Mr Gandhi had sent an amicable message of good will to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. In his message, which had been published in newspapers, Mr Gandhi expressed the desire for establishing harmonious and cooperative relations with Pakistan in a spirit of good neighborliness and mutual benefit. The president reciprocated these sentiments and thanked the Indian prime minister.

Now, the question arises how could Mr Rajiv Gandhi be so sweet and friendly in one breath and so harsh and unfair in another? It would be difficult to reconcile the two statements. The other aspect of it is the place where Mr Gandhi made the statement. This is the capital of our old and Islamic friendly country—Jordan. Is Mr Gandhi trying to create misunderstandings between Pakistan and Jordan, both at the government and the people's levels, by directly approaching the newspaper editors? Will we be correct to conclude that one of the chief, if not the chief, objectives of Mr Gandhi's current tour of several Asian and European countries is to spread misunderstandings against Pakistan. If we assert that Mr Gandhi had undertaken this tour of certain countries, countries which have been friendly to us, for purposes of propaganda against Pakistan, that would pose yet another query. Why does he do it? What is the need for him to do it just now? It would appear that Mr Gandhi could do it for domestic political reasons. That is, to divert the attention of his people from certain recent setbacks which his Congress-I Party has suffered in his old home constituency and other provinces. He is a professional politician after all. The other and more grave possibility could be that he plans to take a still more harder line against Pakistan and that requires some preparation and cultivation of the public opinion in India and abroad, especially in friendly countries he is touring just now.

[Words indistinct] the sweet message of good will and friendship which Mr Rajiv Gandhi transmitted to the president of Pakistan on 11 July does not agree with the one he made before the newspaper editors in Amman on the following day. The discrepancy is much too obvious and vitiates against [as heard] Mr Rajiv Gandhi's credibility and also the ability of his government to place relations with Pakistan on a new and healthier basis of understanding, good will, and mutual benefit.

Sri Lanka

Heavy Polling in Four Parliamentary By-Elections

BK1407143588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1327 GMT 14 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—There was heavy polling in the four parliamentary by-elections held in Sri Lanka today.

Deputy Elections Commissioner W.D.L. Perera told LANKAPUVATH that reports from the Katugampola, Kekirawa, Welimada and Ratnapura electorates showed that over 80 percent of the 214,550 voters had cast their ballots. He said no incidents had been reported during polling which began at 0700 hours (local time) and ended at 1600 hours (local time).

Police reported there were no serious incidents in the four electorates.

The elections are being contested by the ruling United National Party (UNP), the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and 21 independent candidates.

All four seats were held by the UNP whose members resigned to successfully contest the provincial council elections and become chief ministers.

The first results are expected to be announced around midnight.

UNP Narrowly Wins 3 Races

BK1507022488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0206 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Colombo, July 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) won three out of four by-elections held here Thursday [14 July], but with narrow margins, election officials said here Friday. They won the polls in Katugampola, Welimada and Kekirawa, but lost Ratnapura to the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the officials said. The UNP and the SLFP were the only two parties to contest the four seats.

The vote ahead of presidential and general elections to be held over the coming year was seen here as a major test of popularity for President Junius Jayewardene's 11-year rule.

More than 85 per cent of 214,500 registered voters turned out Thursday, Deputy Elections Commissioner W.D.L. Perera said. The four electorates fell vacant when their MP's resigned to take part in last month's provincial council elections.

"We did not experience the kind of trouble we expected," Mr. Perera said. "There was only one case of an overenthusiastic supporter trying some strong arm tactics. He was chased away by police." But a police spokesman in Ratnapura said meetings and rallies in the area had been banned for a week starting last Friday to

prevent clashes between SLFP and UNP supporters. The balloting was conducted under tight security involving a total of 3,000 policemen in the four constituencies, a military spokesman here said.

The state-owned radio said the UNP showing was an endorsement of the 82-year-old Mr. Jayewardene's policies and of a July 1987 agreement he signed with India to end the island's Tamil separatist war. "The results show that the people are against violence and that they support the peace accord," the radio said. The SLFP has sought the backing of a Sinhalese militant group violently opposed to the pact, under which India has deployed some 52,000 troops in the island's north and east.

Jayewardene on Accusations Against Bandaranaike
BK1407140288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1256 GMT 14 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene told Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike today that she was deprived of her civic rights not by him, but by parliament, on the recommendations of an independent presidential commission, the appointment of which and the appointees of which she approved.

The president was replying to a telegram received by him from Mrs Bandaranaike last night.

President Jayewardene also states in his letter to Mrs Bandaranaike that she was accused of selling some of her lands which were to be taken over by the state under a bill introduced by her government, after the bill was passed and before the speaker had ratified it. Those lands were sold at a price Mrs Bandaranaike would have received when they became state lands.

President Jayewardene states the SLFP leader was also seeking to raise the value of her husband's lands for which she would have had to pay estate duty and wealth tax at a lower rate, as they had been valued low. She had raised the value of these lands so that she could obtain higher compensation when they became state lands under her land reform act, as the compensation was to be based on the higher value.

President Jayewardene further states in today's letter to Mrs Bandaranaike that she was also accused of abuse of power and detaining her political opponents, ejecting a faithful and long service employee from his house and also two members of the Buddhist priesthood from their temples.

Mrs Bandaranaike was also accused of extending the emergency against the advice of her security advisers. She had not given evidence on her behalf at the presidential commission and the commission had held against her.

President Jayewardene has also told Mrs Bandaranaike that her allegation that her party organisers and supporters were arrested, will be inquired into if complaints are made to the police.

The president has said that the information provided to him is that they were outsiders brought in by her son, Anura Bandaranaike, and her candidate for the Ratnapura parliamentary by-election, Nanda Ellawela, to organise violence and disrupt the peaceful process of the election. In fact, they hinted in speeches made by them soon after the nomination, they would do so.

Her candidate had boasted that the river which flows through the electorate will be flowing with blood.

President Jayewardene has told Mrs Bandaranaike that he would also be informing international organisations that she was informing. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Arrest 46 Right-Wing Suspects
BK1407104288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0930 GMT 14 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Forty-six terrorist suspects allegedly belonging to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP], including U.G. Abeyratne Bandara, described by police as a leader of the military wing of the JVP, have been arrested by the Sri Lankan security forces and the police.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH today that Abeyratne Bandara, who had been allegedly involved in the murder of K.W. Jayaweera on February 21, 1988, was apprehended at Hunugalpitiya in Sri Lanka's North Central Province's district of Polonnaruwa, yesterday, in a combined operation conducted by the Sri Lankan forces and police. In Ratnapura and Kuruwita police areas, the police arrested 37 suspects and recovered a cache of weapons comprising locally made pistols, 5 hand grenades and 10 kris knives. Six suspects were released and 31 have been sent to Pelawatte detention camp.

A report from Handapanagala in the Wellawaya police area in the Uva Province, R.K. Chandrasena, an agriculture officer who arrived riding bicycle to the agriculture office, was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman.

A group of unidentified gunmen opened fire at the chief priest of Dimbulagala in the Polonnaruwa District when he was travelling in a vehicle, at Dalukana in the Polonnaruwa District. No one was injured.

During a cordon and search operation conducted by the police in the Yakkalamulla police area in the Galle District in the Southern Province, seven persons were arrested with 1 locally made pistol and a kris knife.

Sources said that H.P. Premaratne alleged to be involved in subversive activities was arrested by police in Ambagala in the Kurunegala District. One shot gun, three 12 bore cartridges and a bicycle were seized.